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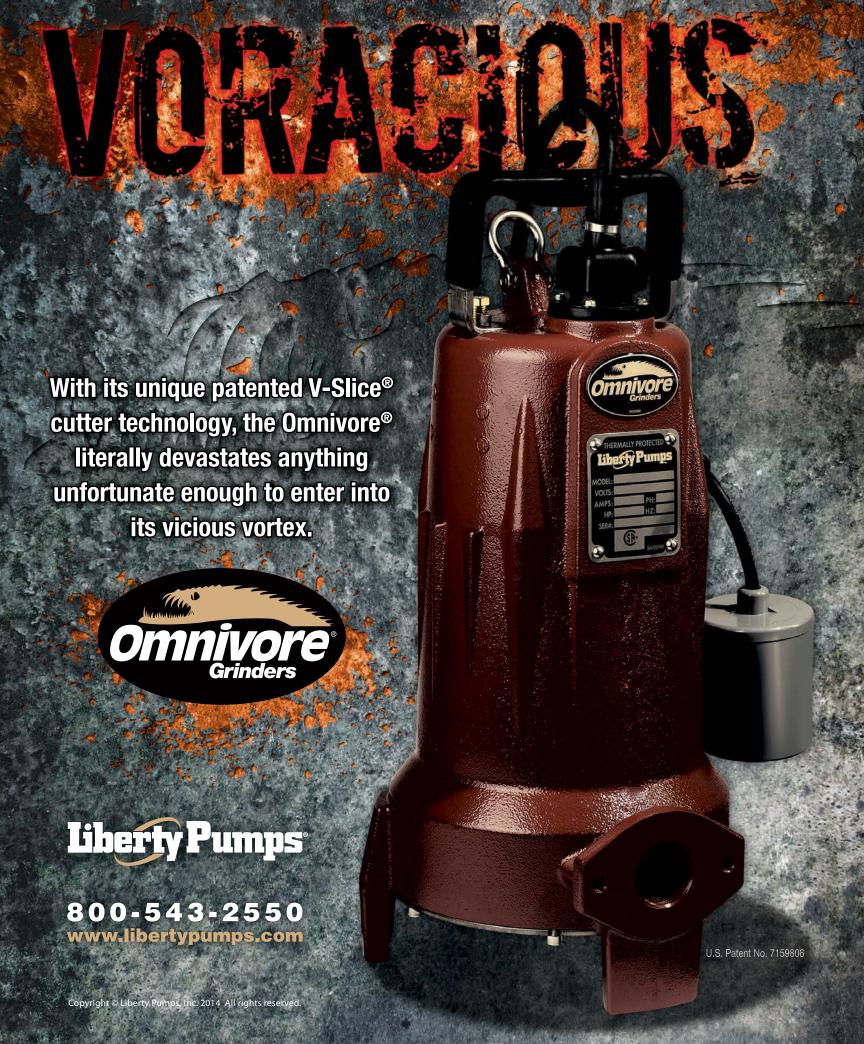
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ON THE COVER: In British Columbia, Can., the crew at Onsite Systems Inc. takes pride in tackling the tough jobs in system design, management and maintenance. On the cover, (from left) senior planner Shaun Pattenden, managing technician Trefor Digby and manager Ryan Parker pause while working on another challenging project. (Photo by Abigail Saxton Fisher)

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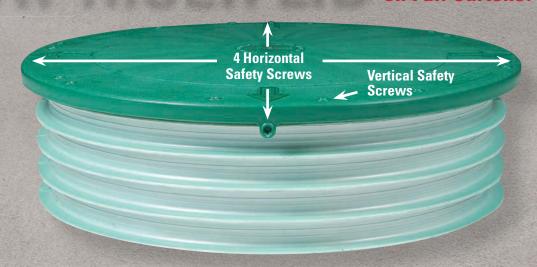
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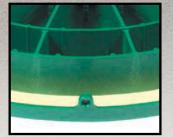
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Think Spring

With the economy on the upswing and property developers back at work in many regions, are you geared up for a busy year?



any signs point to a brighter outlook for the U.S. economy this year. The unemployment rate continues to drop. A look back at housing starts for 2013 shows steady growth following the prolonged doldrums after the collapse of 2008-2009. The banking industry is in a more robust position.

As for the new-housing outlook, such a big driver of the onsite installing industry, well it looks rosier in many areas. Seeing positive signs, real estate developers are coming back to planners in many counties and towns skirting cities across the country, looking to subdivide and conquer the market. Every time they turn a cornfield into a 50-lot housing development, it means onsite systems go in the ground.

You want to be in the mix for those jobs. Especially after several lean years where you may have had to let valued employees go, put off equipment upgrades, and spend meager revenues on marketing to capture as many of the dwindling number of new system installs as you could.

ARE YOU STRESSED OUT?

From my discussions with installers over the past year, I sensed a trend that reflected both a careful, conservative approach to rebuilding the business and a stress-raising compunction to burn the candle at both ends. I can sum up the installers' business plan for 2013 in a few words: Do more with less.

An understaffed business with a lack of marketing focus is like a ship without a rudder. If you're occupied with a shovel all day, you're not going to take the time to set goals.

I sensed last summer was a lost summer – as far as enjoying time with the family goes - for many installers. It was difficult for me to reach many of you to discuss stories in this magazine, and when I received a return call, it was often late in the evening after you put in a dozen or more hours on the job. My observation was that installers were busier in 2013 than they've been in years, even perhaps going back to record revenue days of the early 2000s.

How do I explain that? After the dark years following the real estate crash, installers were hesitant to hire additional crew members as the work came back in incremental waves. Many remembered the worry about making payroll and telling good employees they'd have to look for work elsewhere five years ago. So as the projects started coming back, they made do with a smaller workforce and aging equipment.

Sure, busy is good. But too busy can present some difficult consequences, both personally and professionally. First, I assume if you got married and had children, your intention was to spend quality time with them. Maybe you haven't had enough family time lately. Secondly, prolonged stress in your job puts your health at risk and you're no good to anyone if you're sick or stressed out. And thirdly, if your feet are in a trench all day, you can't see the big picture the way a business owner must to succeed.

THREE THINGS

For many of you, things are looking up. And hopefully the entire industry will benefit from an improved economy this year. So to benefit from an advancing market and put your small business in line for success, I offer these three tasks for March:

Find out where your market is going

It's possible your market may not reflect the national trend. You need to be sure any liveliness you perceive in the local economy is sustainable before making big investments in your company. If you survived the down times, you are probably careful not to overextend yourself in the first place.

So it's a good time for researching your territory.

Check in on your local municipal and county planning offices and find out the situation for buildable residential and commercial lots that would utilize onsite systems. Ask about supply and demand the planners expect this year and compare the inventory of vacant properties to historic numbers. While you're talking to local officials, ask about the relative age of most septic systems in

the area and potential tightening of environmental regulations that might prompt an uptick in system replacements.

Talk to area Realtors about the demand for new housing starts compared to the trend in existing home sales. Are there enough available lots to fill existing demand for new houses? Are developers still gun-shy about investing in new projects? Are there pockets of older neighborhoods trending in popularity and signaling a growth in repair and replacement work?

Lastly, take a good look at the employment outlook for your area. If large employers are still having a difficult time, the general recovery that could help your business may be slower in coming. If businesses are hiring, and you often hear about entrepreneurial startups that are doing well, you may have more reason for optimism.

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Assess your staffing needs

Look back at your experience over the past two to three years. Has your revenue steadily risen - along with the hours you have to put in every day? Are you missing out on more important family events and celebrations, prompting some complaints at home? Is cash flow less of an issue - and you're not as frantic about making payroll from week to week? If the answer to these questions is "yes," maybe it's time to look at developing some front-line help.

If you're not able to support a whole new crew at this time, you might add a new helper-in-training to an existing crew, or a floater who will help out on busy projects and work on equipment maintenance or keeping the shop in order. When new business is just starting to percolate is a good time to slowly work a new person into the mix. Remember, the work you do requires a lot of training and doesn't lend itself to simply plugging in a new person and expecting a smooth transition.

Is your office running smoothly? Or do you find yourself pushing paperwork for a few hours every evening? In slow times, sometimes a receptionist, bookkeeper or marketing assistant are the first to go. As things pick up, remember the vital tasks these positions perform and get people on board to handle the work. A well-run office will free you up to bid on more jobs, keep up with your continuing education and give priority to business building.

Ask yourself where you want to be in five years

An understaffed business with a lack of marketing focus is like a ship without a rudder. If you're occupied with a shovel all day, you're not going to take the time to set goals and work toward accomplishing them. And you can bet that if you're not moving forward to fill growing demand, a competitor is filling the void.

You started a business to build something. Perhaps you wanted to pass a thriving enterprise on to your family. Maybe you wanted to build equity in customer lists and equipment to support your retirement? Many of you just love a challenge to be the best installer you can be. Any way you look at it, treading water is not the answer.

There have been bumps in the road, sure, and some of them you had no control over. There's no time like the present to do some forward thinking and set a profitable course for your business.

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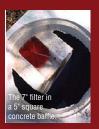
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Canada's OSI set itself up as the champion of the tough job, finding ways to install effective systems on sites with marginal soil conditions

By Gil Longwell

hen Ron Parker started working in the onsite wastewater industry, his focus was on overcoming site challenges for property owners in western Canada; the bigger the challenge he met, the more he prospered. After 21 years, the company he runs with his son, Ryan, is built on the idea of overcoming any obstacle to build and maintain quality onsite systems.

Their company, Onsite Systems Inc., concentrates on site evaluation and onsite system design, installation, maintenance and the sale of related technologies. Ron, a professional engineer, and his wife, Pat, are the owners; Ryan manages day-to-day operations.

Based in Duncan, British Columbia, about 55 miles due west of Bellingham, Wash., and about 40 miles southwest of Vancouver, all of Vancouver Island on Canada's west coast is their service area. They will travel up to two hundred miles for a job.

SITE LIMITATIONS

In 1992, with the germ of a business idea planted in Ron, the family traveled across the border to learn about the more advanced technologies being used in the states. It was the start of a technology drive that has never stopped for OSI.

"Overcoming shallow soil site limitations was what drove us to Washington State," says Ron. "We went there for onsite system training. We

Onsite Systems Inc., Duncan, B.C., Canada

OWNERS: Ron and Pat Parker

YEARS IN BUSINESS: 22

SERVICE AREA: 200-mile radius

SPECIALTIES: Onsite system design, maintenance/

management, repairs and equipment sales

EMPLOYEES:

AFFILIATIONS: British Columbia Onsite Sewage

Association, Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association, S. Cowichan Chamber of Commerce

WEBSITE: www.osieagle.ca

learned about the advanced technology they were deploying." Among the products they learned about was the Orenco sand filter, which expanded their design horizons in the cramped Canadian areas where they worked.



Trefor Digby uses a pressure gauge to ensure the PSI is calibrated correctly in this Orenco Advantex AX 100 system.

<< Shaun Pattenden (from left), senior planner, Ryan Parker, manager, and Trefor Digby, managing technician, look over a map of a development site where Onsite Systems Inc. will perform routine maintenance. (Photos by Abigail Saxton Fisher)

When they started OSI, onsite systems distributing septic tank effluent were not permitted on sites with less than 18 inches of suitable soil. Parker believed improved effluent quality could change that dynamic and allow for safe and successful application on sites with marginal conditions. It turned out he was right, but as with anything new, regulators had to become familiar with the technology, its capabilities, limitations and the opportunities it created. The higher treatment achieved allowed the use of traditional absorption area designs to reintroduce effluent to the environment. In a few cases, the treated effluent has been discharged to the ocean.

Subsurface sand filters were well known in British Columbia and their performance became a benchmark for evaluating other technologies. These new systems did well, and the provincial siting and design regulations were eventually modified to include this technology and others identified later. Over the years, OSI has become a distributor of many treatment products, including those from Orenco. Orenco products were the first branded treatment technology the company was involved with and the ones they have stayed with.

PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

Introducing new ideas and products to a community is challenging, and best accomplished through individual learning experiences during group events. "For our sales to grow, we recognized that installers needed to understand the technologies and products we sold. To enable these colleagues, we first had to help them understand their new opportunities," Ron says.

"We found our own skill sets - site evaluation, design, installation, and operations and maintenance or O&M - all growing," Ryan adds. Evaluating soils is the first step to match a technology to a site; next comes the design. The province-issued permit follows. During every step, the company's

Working with the competition

When the phone rings in the middle of — you name it — the night, a blizzard, a hurricane, the caller wants a qualified professional to pick up and respond. Across British Columbia, when an Orenco Vericom control system detects a performance issue, it automatically calls for help. Onsite Systems Incorporated (OSI), in Duncan, B.C., Canada, is the Vericom call center operator for the entire province, and while the call for help may stop there, it is also the place from which help is dispatched.

"We have not installed every system," says Ron. "But we have had some involvement with every one," adds Ryan. Through their work as trainers, they enjoy collegial relationships with an established network of maintenance providers across the province as well. The role of call center dispatcher is not one of competitor, rather collaborator. It allows OSI to work with competitive enterprises in their own market without competing for business.

When the issue is problem solving, OSI and the service providers share a singularity of purpose. They are all in there together.



Ryan Parker uses a multimeter to check for proper amperage in electrical components served by an Orenco MVP control panel at a winery on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada.

capabilities, confidence and value to others in the industry grew. "We traveled the province teaching what we had learned," said Ryan.

The more they learned, the more they could share. Learning, sharing and deploying new technologies became a cycle that continues today. Soon it was apparent that - while important - education was not and should not become the focus of their business.

"It was in 1998 that Dave Jackson, a former employee, and I founded the BC Onsite Sewage Association," Ron explains. BCOSSA has taken up the primary task of basic and continuing education of onsite professionals. This frees the Parkers to focus on product-specific training delivered primarily in one-on-one situations.

NEW TRAINING STANDARDS

In early 2005, a new provincial law, the BC Health Act's Sewage System Regulation, set province-wide training and certification requirements for those performing most onsite system tasks. The law assigns the training role to BCOSSA. Association-developed curriculum that satisfies the



technical and content requirements of the provincial Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) is presented. That entity issues credentials to planners, who do site evaluations and prepare designs, and installers, maintenance providers and inspectors, who evaluate existing systems at the time of property sales.

Creating a highly trained and educated workforce, the act has also changed the administrative process by which sites are evaluated and systems are designed and approved. Provincial Department of Health employees no longer perform site evaluations to assure suitability for onsite systems.

"System designs are filed with the health department agency, however only the designer is checking for compliance, and under this new system, they are checking their own work," Ron explains. Ryan sees the same process being applied to installations.

"We're looking for more policing of what goes on in the field," he says. "There is a belief among many onsite professionals that the process has effectively been set up to fail."

At first blush, it seems unlikely for regulated businesses to want greater government oversight. But seeking the perfect balance of oversight without micromanagement is, however, something many

Shaun Pattenden and Trefor Digby review maintenance records during a routine system check on Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

onsite professionals value. In this case, raising the bar on professionalism, accuracy and appropriateness of solutions, and the quality of installation are the goals OSI is pursuing.

DEMAND GROWS FOR O&M

OSI is different from most onsite installers in that it doesn't own and maintain any heavy equipment needed to do the dirt work. The Parkers prefer to lease machinery as needed.

"A while back, Ryan's brother worked for the company. He owned the equipment we needed and we deployed it, as needed, through a subcontracting arrangement," Ron explains. They have found it to be more cost-effective to rent a machine and operator than to sustain these investments through slow times. This allows the company to work within





its project niche area and not have to take on all sorts of work just to pay the bills. That would be a distraction.

The recent economy has reduced demand for installation for OSI, but operation and maintenance needs continue. Accordingly, the balance of business is moving the company toward the latter. "We have room to expand in this area without reducing our work in other segments," says Ryan.

"Through 2008 we were operating full bore; until then, the effect of the 2005 regulation change had not fully kicked-in," Ron says. "We saw some decline, but it was not until 2008 that we really noticed it," Ryan adds. That's when a 20 percent drop in work across the board hit the province, which slowed new construction-related work, but it did not stop the need for O&M.

"Overcoming shallow soil site limitations was what drove us to Washington State. We went there for onsite system training. We learned about the advanced technology they were deploying."

Ron Parker

"If the O&M service opportunity or need arises, we will satisfy it, but only for systems we have had some involvement in," says Ryan. As an Orenco distributor, they have been heavily involved in use of those products as an installer, designer, component provider and installer trainer. They currently do not offer O&M support for any other proprietary systems, however that may change. "We are considering cross-training," said Ron.

SMALL AND EFFICIENT

Eschewing an equipment fleet enables the company to maintain its operations in a modest, former single-family house in a quiet Duncan neighborhood. The house's two-car garage is their warehouse and workshop. They also have an arrangement with a tank manufacturer to keep their Orenco inventory on his nearby lot.

In addition to the Orenco systems, the company also utilizes Xerxes ZCL fiberglass-reinforced tanks for commercial work applications.

A 1998 Chevy pickup is the entire vehicle pool. As needed, Ryan's 2007 Toyota pickup is used as well. "When we need Orenco components delivered, coordinate that with the septic tank delivery and the tank manufacturer brings both at once," Ryan says.

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website and targeted direct (postal) and email campaigns. The latter are focused on maintenance services in neighborhoods with special environmental considerations like lakeshore communities. Twice a year the company takes its training program on the road to the installer and service provider communities. "There are times when we attach magnetic signs on the truck as another way to get the word out," said Ryan.

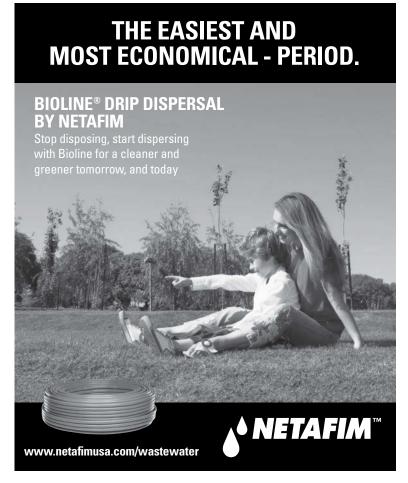
In addition to Ron and Ryan, Shaun Pattenden, a soil specialist, Trefor Digby, their maintenance technician, and Linda Taylor, administrator, round out the OSI team. Although Ron and Pat are officially retired, they are always available for consultation.

There are some onsite services the company has chosen not to pursue. The two standouts are tank pumping and real estate presale system inspections.

"Both of these tasks are referred to appropriately credentialed local entrepreneurs who have the specialized equipment that is needed for this work," explains Ryan.

Founded on Canada's western frontier, this two-generation company continues to pioneer new techniques and technologies, enhance practitioners' competency level and strengthen the associations they helped establish.







Getting Started

Wastewater trade association takes off in Arkansas to represent pumpers and installers on new regulations By Doug Day

he Arkansas Onsite Wastewater Association has only been around since April 2010. While it could use more resources to recruit members, it takes members to get those resources. It would help if they had more power in the legislature, but that requires numbers, as well.

ARKOWA was formed by Don Daley (president) and his wife Peggy (secretary/treasurer). We talked to Don about the group's founding and its future.

What prompted you to start the organization?

Daley: My wife and I are both system designers and we were working with the owners of some highly valuable lake property. We found out we had to go through a lot of hassles. They got turned down for a septic system and we couldn't find any way to get a system approved. We ran into regulations we'd never heard of and nobody could tell us how they became law. We talked to our state representative, who is now a state senator, about how we get into the loop when regulations are being made. He told us if we wanted a say, we needed a professional association and he would help us get started and get us a seat at the table.

The Board of Directors of the Arkansas Onsite Wastewater Association represent all areas of the onsite wastewater industry. The officers are:

Don Daley – President (designer) Sitewise LLC

Peggy Daley - Secretary/Treasurer (designer) Sitewise LLC

Joe Smith (installer) **Smith Excavating**

Mike O'Connor (manufacturer) Clear Flow

Darius Melton (pumper) 2M Pumping Service





Don and Peggy Daley may be reached at 501/617-1046 or don.daley@sitewisearkansas.com.

There were a few people interested and nobody had the time, so we spent about two years and our own money incorporating ARKOWA and have been trying to get the membership up ever since.

How many members do you have?

Daley: We have about 60 members out of about 900 people licensed to do septic work. Who knows how many of them are really active? We're still in our infancy, but we do have enough people that the legislature will talk to us. It's better than it used to be.

If somebody wants something and there's nobody there to oppose, it goes right through a committee and to the legislature and nobody has questioned it. If you have an association, you can go into committee meetings and sign up for or against a bill. There were a lot of those types of special interest things that got through. The legislature now knows there is somebody who is interested and it gives them a cause to ask a few more questions.

But it is a numbers game, and that's what we tell potential members. The more members, the more influence you have. Most of the legislators can't relate to onsite wastewater because most of them are on city sewer. It's completely foreign to them.

What types of things are you working on?

Daley: There are officials in the Arkansas Department of Health who would like to see the association get up and going and take over some of the education functions. They don't have the money to do that. We hope to offer some educational opportunities to help people in the business keep up their accreditations. We're working with the Health Department to get people soils qualified. There's only one school in Arkansas where you get soil qualified and it's a two-year course.

We're trying to work with homeowners who don't have money to fix their systems when they do fail. So we're looking for sources of grants and lowinterest loans and get that set up. It would be a benefit to everyone if we could clean up those systems.

"If you've ever complained about a new regulation or not knowing about (a new rule) until two or three months after it passed, then you need to join the association so you will have a chance to have input when it is being discussed."

Don Daley

I've been keeping up with the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's] work on nonprofit sewer companies. Arkansas passed a law four or five years ago to allow them [EPA in 2004 established the National Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Project grant program to build and operate cluster systems to serve groups of homes located outside municipal sewer systems]. I've been pursuing how we can set them up out in the rural areas. We have a lot of lakes and poor soils, so we're studying the types of systems we can put in around the state to help counties and developers install small community cluster systems so areas can be developed.

The more we try to do, the more money we need. We want to be a benefit to everybody and get what is best for the people of the state.

What do you have to say to the onsite professionals in Arkansas reading this right now?

Daley: If you've ever complained about a new regulation or not knowing about [a new rule] until two or three months after it passed, then you need to join the association so you will have a chance to have input when it is being discussed. Without that, you only get to complain about it. So join us and complain upfront when it matters!

Our website was built by my wife and I. We'd like to have a newsletter. We're just looking for anybody who is willing to contribute in any way. We can always find a spot for them to do something.

There are other states without industry groups like ARKOWA. What suggestions would you have for installers interested in starting a trade group?

Daley: Get started. It's not that difficult if you can get some people to help you send out flyers and get information out. We spent two weekends calling people right before the legislature went into session. I sent out emails every week about what was happening during the legislative session to keep people informed. That's when people are interested because that's when the laws are going to change and people want input.

Many states have active, successful organizations. Do you have a message for them?

Daley: Anybody who has any information about programs they've used to get things going, we'd like to hear it. Some have suggested we get together with the national organizations. That's an option as soon as we get the money put together. Everything ties back to money and membership. We would like to, but we don't even have enough money to send people to meetings and conventions to bring back information to help us; we have to do it all on our own dime. We'd love to be able to go to those things because that's where we're going to learn.

In 10 years, what will the Arkansas Onsite Wastewater Association

Daley: [Laughing] It looks like I'm gone! Hopefully somebody has taken over for me.

We've taken over most of the education work from the health department. We have people on the board looking at regulations and what has to be done to improve onsite wastewater in Arkansas.

We're working with the Health Department in a team effort. We started by focusing on our onsite people and educating them. At some point, we brought the health department on board and we're working together on the best things we can do to keep the water quality of the state safe and secure, and also allow the people of the state to enjoy their property and have the things they want for themselves and their families. It's a trade-off. You have to have regulations that make it good for everybody.

I'm hoping we get to a point where the regulations are thoughtful to the water resources and the homeowners and residents of the state.



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A failed system, an adventurous homeowner and new technology create the opportunity for a better onsite solution in Illinois

By David Steinkraus

he combination of a sensitive site and a client sensitive to the environmental effects of his wastewater system gave David Zeiter and his company a chance to stretch with a new technology. There was one other factor: The household system had failed.

"Unfortunately the house was only three years old when the septic system failed," says Zeiter, who is president of Zeiter's Septics Unlimited in Morris, Ill. "I think, with the soils there, the system was not sized properly from the outset."



As soon as he saw the site and the old, flooded quarry 200 feet from the house, he knew what to expect. "We found bedrock at 3 feet all over. In half a dozen holes in an area 200 by 1,000 feet, we hit bedrock no matter where we dug. They happened to put the old system in a place where the bedrock was a bit farther down."

The first system consisted of a 1,500-gallon Infiltrator tank and 210 Infiltrator EQ

A 4-inch SaniTEE was added to the home's existing septic tank to improve the filtration of effluent flowing to the tank holding the BioBarrier.

SYSTEM PROFILE

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chambers. The soils report found no penetration below 30 to 45 inches, and one core found a seasonal high water table at 36 inches. When the system failed, the symptoms were classic: Water from the last two laterals in the installation broke through the surface of the ground.

Test holes were required by the local health department, and the results changed the outlook for the property near Kankakee, Ill. The conventional solution in shallow bedrock would have been a raised filter bed, but that was too expensive for the homeowner. At that time, Zeiter went to a session about the BioBarrier made by a division of Bio-Microbics. The BioBarrier unit uses a blower to sustain aerobic bacteria, but its defining feature is a membrane filter with pore sizes between 0.3 and 1.3 microns. This is large enough to pass water molecules but too small for bacteria. Water coming out of the unit is clean enough for secondary uses such as yard and garden irrigation, flushing toilets, even for washing clothes, Zeiter says.

This appealed to the property owner Ben Haigh. Various pieces of mining equipment and old military vehicles have been sunk in the quarry, and divers from a wide area come for sport or certification. Haigh had installed his own geothermal heat system and wanted to do his part to keep the quarry's waters clean. He chose a BioBarrier system, and his project became the first installation of the unit in Illinois.

"We found bedrock at 3 feet all over. In half a dozen holes in an area 200 by 1,000 feet, we hit bedrock no matter where we dug."

David Zeiter

specified Infiltrator risers, one 24 inches and the other 30 inches to allow for installation of the BioBarrier unit. Stainless steel cables connect to the side of the BioBarrier so its 100-pound full weight can be winched out of the tank for maintenance.

A 1/5 hp pump from Goulds pulls water through the BioBarrier membrane and discharges through a 3/8-inch hose. This is stepped up to a

EOUIPMENT

Because the failed system was recent, Zeiter used the existing septic tank for primary treatment and settling. But Zeiter removed the original baffle and installed a 4-inch SaniTEE from Bio-Microbics to provide filtration of effluent.

From the septic tank, wastewater flows by gravity into the second treatment tank, a 1,500-gallon model from Wieser Concrete of Maiden Rock, Wis. Zeiter picked the company because it molds tanks to specification and delivers quickly. In this case he specified a side hole to fit the alignment of the existing septic tank. He also



The BioBarrier unit in place inside the new concrete tank.





As installation progresses, the new 1,500-gallon Wieser Concrete Products tank is put in place. It holds the BioBarrier unit. The green riser lid at left marks the 1,250-gallon septic tank that Dave Zeiter uses for effluent settling and filtration. The pipe leading to the rear of the photo takes recycled water from the BioBarrier to a drainline leading from the home's downspouts to a nearby flooded quarry.

1 1/2 inch hose before it leaves the tank, and the flow joins a 6-inch pipe from the home's downspouts. This water flows 200 feet to the quarry.

Zeiter's workers did their excavating with a Komatsu PC 128 and did backfilling with a Bobcat T250.

A panel made by Maveric Automation for Bio-Microbics controls the system.

INSTALLING WITH ZERO PITCH

The BioBarrier tank sits on 6 inches of sand laid right on top of bedrock. When he looked at the tank height they were forced to accept, Zeiter realized he had zero pitch to the drain line that leads to the quarry. Then Kurt Bihler, the local BioBarrier representative from Bihler Tech Inc., stopped by.

"He is very knowledgeable when it comes to pumps and total dynamic head pressure, and he says, 'Let's shoot some grades: where we come out of the tank with the pipe and the line at the gutter tile.' So we did, and he says that little pump would do the job. Kurt says, 'Dave, trust me. This is what I do.' "

It worked. From the top of the tank the discharge line went down 3 feet to avoid frost, then back up 3 feet into an inspection port, and then into the 6-inch drainline. When they started it up, the little pump took a couple of

minutes to push the water that far, but it got there. "So we were able to eliminate a lift station, use the existing pump, and save the owner about \$1,000," Zeiter says.

No restoration was required. Extra dirt went to a motocross track for Haigh's son.

Zeiter achieved a faster startup time and better efficiency because of the way he seeded the system. BioMicrobics recommends two gallons of activated sludge for startup. Zeiter hauled in about 800 gallons of aerated liquor from a local municipality, which was happy to give it away for free. When initially started with activated sludge, the BioBarrier requires six to eight hours to pull the designed flow of water through the membrane because solids clog the membrane. As aerobic digestion improves, it reduces the

"Unfortunately the house was only three years old when the septic system failed. I think, with the soils there, the system was not sized properly from the outset."

David Zeiter

quantity of solids and the time to move water decreases, Zeiter says. His installation treated the average daily usage of 250 gallons in about 2 1/2 hours from the beginning.

Another useful feature, Zeiter says, is a data port that allows him to download operating information onto a USB drive. It comes out of the control panel in a basic format (comma-separated values, a .csv file) that can be easily imported into Excel or other programs for analysis. Results have been so good that Zeiter's technicians may not have to do any cleaning of the membrane during the initial two-year service commitment.

STATE OF UNCERTAINTY

Like other states, Illinois is trying to eliminate surface discharges. That made Kankakee County staff ask plenty of questions when Zeiter came in with a new technology discharging to a surface body of water.

There was no room for this in the current code,

and one of the county staff questioned whether chlorination would be required.

Ultimately the question went all the way to the state capitol in Springfield and the state's environmental health director. He wrote a letter granting a variance for BioBarrier installations, Zeiter says. Until Illinois rewrites its sanitary code, the letter will allow him and other contractors to do additional installations.

The solution came along at just the right time for this project, and Zeiter connected with a homeowner who was not interested in the fast and cheap. "He was looking at the long-term solution and embracing a new technology," Zeiter says. □

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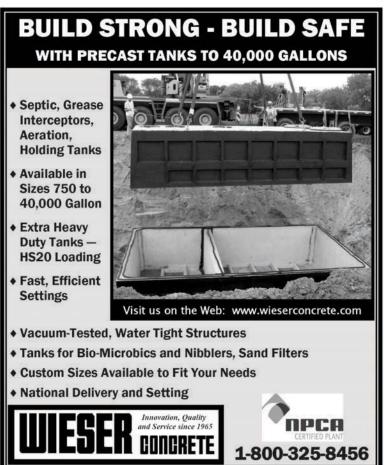
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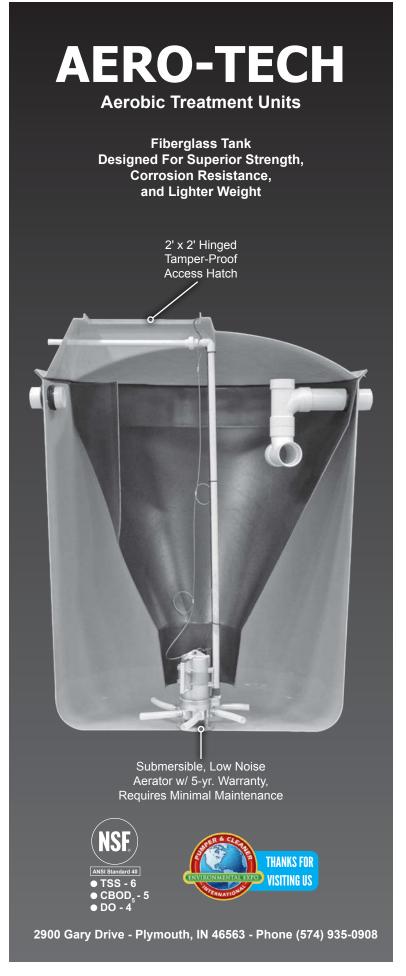
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Jim Anderson, Ph.D, and David Gustafson, P.E., are connected with the University of Minnesota onsite wastewater treatment education program. David is Extension Onsite Sewage Treatment Educator. Jim is former director of the university's Water Resources Center and is now an emeritus professor, as well as education program coordinator for the National Association of Wastewater Technicians. Readers are welcome to submit questions or article suggestions to Jim and David. Write to ander045@umn.edu.

Landscaping is Critical

As installers, you're most concerned about what goes underground. But the customers you have to satisfy might be focused more on aesthetics.

n Minnesota, one of the biggest complaints we hear from homeowners is: "I need a new septic system; do I have to have one of those systems that ends up looking like a big pile of dirt in my yard?"

As we travel around the country, this question or complaint is worded a little differently, but it remains an issue that causes homeowners a lot of anxiety. They want to know, after all the equipment leaves, what their yard is going to look like. In Minnesota, this often comes about because of our high percentage of soils with high water tables. The result is a large number of above-ground at-grade and mound systems. In other situations, homeowners wonder if they can preserve elements of their landscaping, such as flowerbeds, trees or shrubs.

If the fill to finish off the shape of the system will be in contact with the trees, a rock well or landscape feature must be incorporated so the soil doesn't contact the tree bark.

The installer who knows how to deal with these questions and has an understanding of landscaping concepts will have a leg up on competitors who just want to plop a system on the lot and do a minimal amount of grading to smooth things out, then be on their way. As always, the best way to have a happy repeat customer who recommends you to others is effective communication at every stage of an installation and going forward.

VEGETATIVE COVER

In humid areas, one important aspect of a properly functioning soil treatment area is establishing good vegetative cover. This is true for belowground or above-ground systems. Having a good, solid wellmaintained cover keeps soil from eroding, allows the vegetation to remove moisture and nutrients from the soil, provides an insulating layer and makes the area more aesthetically pleasing.

Planting the wrong vegetation can cause irreparable damage to the system, so it is key to know the best types of ground cover for your area. Trees, shrubs and any herbaceous plants that have extensive root systems should not be placed on top of or near the system. In general herbaceous plants such as turf grasses, wildflowers and native grasses are suitable for cover. The University of Minnesota offers a listing of plants suitable for system cover found on their website, www.septic.umn.edu.

Turf grasses are probably most often used. They have fibrous root systems that hold the soil in place, and many varieties are available, from shade-tolerant to those that can take more sun and dryness. Choosing varieties that fit the site is important. Homeowners should be aware that turf grasses require regular lawn maintenance, so if the homeowner does not want to be fertilizing, watering, etc., use of native grasses or wildflowers may be a good option.

Native grasses and wildflowers are attractive alternatives and provide the same functions as turf grasses without some of the maintenance. Native

> vegetation is usually more drought-tolerant which is good from two perspectives. First, the vegetation can survive better during dry periods without watering over the top of the system, and since they are drought-tolerant, the native plantings are less likely to aggressively search for water contained in the system. That means fewer problems due to root penetration.

With any groundcover solution, it's important to limit the traffic over the systems during planting and to avoid methods of preparation that cause soil compaction problems now or maintenance issues due to working the soil later. Compaction will limit the soil's ability to conduct water and oxygen around the system.

OPTIONAL SHAPES

One of the chief complaints with above-ground mounds and at-grades, particularly on nearly level lots, is that homeowners end up with a 3- to 4-foot-high rectangular-looking lump in the middle of their yards ... with a bunch of white pipes sticking out. When installers hear this complaint, they can present options for system placement and the final shape of the system.

Suggestions can include changing the shape or orientation of the system if the topography allows, transforming that pile of dirt into a privacy barrier, windbreak, landscape focus or a screen to block off views from the road. Here you may need to work with the designer and the homeowner so there is agreement about the placement and that it fits with the site constraints.

On sloping sites, it's often more feasible to fit the mound or at-grade into the landscape, reducing the profile and resulting in a different shape. The system needs to line up or be installed on the contour, providing an opportunity to add additional fill to blend it in with natural landscape



features. This reduces the profile and makes the slope smoother and more gradual. Fill used to blend the system into the landscape should be clean and suitable for establishing vegetation. However, since it is not part of the treatment component, it does not have to be clean sand.

A couple of notes: Fill placed over the top of the mound or at-grade should not be more than 30 inches deep to maintain good moisture and oxygen exchange. Trees the homeowner wants to keep - either upslope or downslope from the actual treatment area – can be left in place. However, if the fill to finish off the shape of the system will be in contact with the trees, a rock well or landscape feature must be incorporated so the soil doesn't contact the tree bark. This contact will result in a fungus that will begin to attack the tree, ultimately killing it. The installer may be long gone at this point because that process may take a couple of years, but the homeowner is not going to be happy.

Native vegetation on a mound or at-grade system requires little maintenance, simple regular checks every few months for disruptive burrowing animals, which should be removed. In any system where the grass is not regularly mowed, this is probably a good recommendation.

Next month we will continue on the landscape theme and look at some specific planting techniques and tips.





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Hey, Good Lookin'

With advances in the quality of truck and machine finishes, what's the best way to protect your equipment investment from a harsh working environment?

By Ed Wodalski

eeping your equipment clean can extend its life and enhance resale value. But how far do you need to go? With today's high-tech finishes, is a weekly washdown enough to protect your investment, or will you still benefit from getting out the wax or polish and giving it a little elbow grease?

Brian Baker, owner of B. Baker Construction in Noblesville, Ind., believes in keeping his equipment clean. He repaints machines that begin to show wear and occasionally will use wax on the finish.

"If I see something that's starting to get a lot of weather to it, I fix it with some wax or clean it," he says. "But typically I don't use wax. If it gets in bad condition, we strip that machine in the wintertime and repaint it. We degrease everything," says Baker, whose fleet includes a John Deere bulldozer, three Bobcats, two Case excavators and a backhoe. "The dozer is a 2000 and it's been repainted once already – all decals, all the

stickers go back on it. We have a brand new machine when I get done."

Baker also has a dump truck, flatbed and four-wheel-drive Dodge 5500 service truck, which he might wash five times a week and occasionally waxes. Baker uses a soft-bristle brush and bucket of warm car wash liquid. "If you keep it pretty clean, it stays pretty clean," he says. "If you never wash it, it takes forever to get it clean."



Introduced in the 1990s, detailing clay (available in a single 4-ounce bar) is designed to safely remove above-surface bonded contaminants, enabling wax or sealant to better adhere to paint.

To use, remove the clay bar from its wrapper and tear into two pieces. You can store unused clay in the plastic container it came in or a resealable sandwich bag. Knead the clay into a round, pancake-like patty. It should be large enough to cover the palm of your hand. Spray a clay lubricant onto the patty and section of paint (approximately 16 to 20 inches) you want to clean. Rub the clay over the paint until it glides effortlessly. Wipe off excess residue from the finished surface with a microfiber towel until dry before moving on to a new section.





One of the best tips for maintaining a finish is simply to keep it clean. Ditch Witch offers Dakota Shine to restore faded surfaces, either steel or fiberglass, as shown in these before and after photos. Older equipment can be repainted and scratches should be touched up to prevent corrosion. (Photos courtesy Ditch Witch)

The liquid wash and wax Baker uses on his trucks is the same choice for his prized 1969 Plymouth Barracuda convertible and 1972 SS Chevy El Camino muscle cars, which get waxed considerably more often than his trucks.

IS WAX NECESSARY?

Kevin Hershberger, senior market professional for backhoe loaders at Caterpillar, says the latest generation of water-based e-coat paints is designed to meet the 1,000-hour salt spray performance standard. "In general, wax will not hurt but will not significantly improve the finish quality or life," he says. "Today's finishes from cars to Cat machines are significantly improved compared to technology available just 10 years ago. That improvement is delivered through improved pretreatment and final paint."

Steve Seabolt, Ditch Witch product manager-CTS & Service parts, says one of the best tips for maintaining a machine's surfaces is simply to keep it clean. "Abrasives left on the surface will scratch paint when mechanically impacted. Dirt, sand and other soils will scratch the finish. Leaving these soils on equipment also holds moisture against the paint and could hasten corrosion if that soil is acidic or caustic."



"The two main functions of any coating are sunlight protection — how long it's going to maintain its gloss and its color - and corrosion protection. Most of this equipment spends its entire life outside, and in some cases in some very corrosive environments, such as equipment used to apply road salt."

John Valasco

Seabolt says older machines can be repainted by a local dealer, or revitalized through the use of Dakota Shine, designed to restore faded surfaces (steel, fiberglass) on Ditch Witch and other equipment.

FINISHES VARY

John Valasco, global account manager for PPG Industries, says there's a distinct difference between the paint used on heavy equipment and the clear-coat applied to cars and trucks. Heavy equipment manufacturers use two-component liquid urethane technology for the top coat and epoxy or urethane primer or some type of hybrid technology, a cross between epoxy and polyester.

"It's pretty different from automotive coatings, which, for the most part, are all liquid-based," he says. Many equipment components also are powder coated. "There is no need for waxing or polishing these coatings," Valasco says. "It's not going to provide any real benefit to the end-user. The two main functions of any coating are sunlight protection – how long it's going to maintain its gloss and its color – and corrosion protection. Most of this equipment spends its entire life outside, and in some cases in some very corrosive environments, such as equipment used to apply road salt."

His recommendation: Just wash it down, but be careful when using a pressure washer when removing tough grease and mud. "There are some cases where it will peel paint away or the top coat from the primer," he says.

GO LIGHTLY

"What we recommend, from a normal cleaning standpoint, is that the pressure wash is not greater than what your car would see in a typical car wash [between 1,200 and 1,400 psi] and water temperature less than 125 degrees F." Valasco also recommends that the spray wand be no closer than 24 inches from the part being cleaned. Large chunks of grease or thick organic material should be wiped, not scraped, off before using a pressure washer.

Valasco says while the lifespan of heavy equipment finishes depends on OEM specifications, the typical target for color change and gloss is two to four years for parts that are not ground-engaging. Depending on how the equipment is used and the environment, Valasco suggests repainting when the machine begins to show wear.

"If you let scratches go on too long, you're going to degrade the metal itself, and you want to prevent that and make the unit last as long as possible," he says.

When it comes to extreme dirt and grease removal, Mike Baty, president of Crescent Chemical Co., offers Spatter-Cote Armor-Xtra protection. The product is a mixture of corrosion inhibitors and nonstick polymers applied to equipment surfaces. Originally designed to keep dried concrete from sticking to cement trucks, the water-based coating is sprayed on and lasts up to two weeks. "It's not a wax, but it saves on labor," he says.

SHOWROOM FINISH

Of course, if you'd like a show car finish for your work truck, Mike Phillips, author of The Complete Guide To A Show Car Shine and director of training at Autogeek.net, says you need to wash, clay and wax.

While a nonwax finish might be a good sales pitch, today's clear-coat car and truck finishes (generally found on vehicles built since the mid-1990s) need to be washed and waxed, he says.

"The clear [coat] is paint without pigment; it's still paint. You still have to wash it, clean it, clay it, polish it, protect it - just like paint on a 1952 Chevy." □

"Rules and Regs" is a monthly feature in Onsite Installer TM . We welcome information about state or local regulations of potential broad interest to onsite contractors. Send ideas to editor@onsiteinstaller.com.

Onsite design and installation updates a long time coming in rural Ohio

roposed rule changes for the design and installation of septic systems represent the first update to the standards in 35 years in many areas of rural Ohio. It is estimated that one-fourth of Ohio's 88 counties have not made any significant updates since the rules were first adopted. About 31 percent of systems statewide need to be repaired or replaced, according to a survey conducted by the Ohio Department of Health.

The state department asked all local health districts and departments to identify the number of household sewage treatment systems - septic tanks and pretreatment systems – and determine how many of those were failing. Failure rates were much higher in the northern and central counties than those reported from the southern portion of the state. The new rules would

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Email: sales@tandttools.com Fax: 800.521.3260 not apply to existing systems in good working order. The proposal is available for review at www.odh.ohio.gov/HomeSewageRules.

Maryland

A coalition of rural counties in Maryland claims the state's septic systems regulations have more to do with controlling development in rural counties than with improving water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. The seven counties agree about the importance of improving water quality, but don't like the way the state is trying to accomplish that goal. The coalition says septic system improvements expected to cost \$3.7 billion will reduce nitrogen in the Bay by only 620 tons per year, while the stormwater management pond at the Conowingo Dam dumped an estimated 115,910 tons when it overflowed in a tropical storm in 2011. A spokesman says the most money being spent on nitrogen reduction is for septic systems that contribute the least nitrogen to the Chesapeake Bay compared with stormwater, wastewater treatment plants and agriculture. The state has estimated septic systems contribute about 8 percent of the Chesapeake Bay's total nitrogen.

Alaska

The owner of a Fairbanks pumping company has been ordered to eliminate odor coming from lagoons filled with septage. Robert Riddle, of Fairbanks Pumping and Thawing, began storing the septage in 2005 with intentions to use it as farm fertilizer. Since 2010, he has accepted another 2.5 million gallons of septage from another company, according to court documents.

The developer of a nearby property filed suit claiming the smell drove neighbors indoors. Riddle claimed he was covered by the state's Right-To-Farm Act, but the court disagreed, saying he doesn't qualify as a commercial farm because he doesn't sell any farm products.

Oregon

It's been 10 years since new septic tanks were allowed in the city of Medford in southwest Oregon. The city council has now lifted that ban, allowing septic tanks if the property is located more than 300 feet from a sewer line. In 2003, the council voted to prohibit septic systems in the city, turning down a Public Works recommendation to include the distance exception.

www.onsiteinstaller.com





notesfromnowra



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bob Mayer is President of American Manufacturing Co. and serves as NOWRA's Secretary/Treasurer. The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association is dedicated to representing and educating all segments of the onsite/ decentralized industry. For more information or to join, visit www.nowra.org or call 800/966-2942.

Onsite system design standards <u>imprové treatment performance nationwide</u>

nlike in the past, design practices vary widely between states. When I started 40 years ago, environment health specialists (then sanitarians) were responsible for the design of nearly every system. They did bring engineers in to design some more complex systems, but still under their supervision.

Much has changed. The science and technology of onsite system design has grown considerably. Onsite systems are being installed on much more challenging sites, system flows of tens of thousands of gallons per day are more common, and more of these systems are being designed by engineers and designers from the private sector. For these reasons and more, the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association is developing training materials and a standard of practice for decentralized wastewater systems.

Training materials have been developed by many industry groups, including the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT), the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT), the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), NOWRA and universities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has funded training centers, operator training, installer training, work on a model code and more. The only missing part seems to be designer training. To address this, in 2011, then-NOWRA President Richard Otis formed a task force to develop designer training.

At NOWRA's 2013 annual conference in Nashville, the NOWRA Standard of Practice for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Soil-Based Treatment System Selection and Design was presented. This standard was

SEPTIC PRODUCTS INC The Most Complete Line of SYSTEM ALARMS Call Today FLOAT SWITCHES 419-282-5933 ON-SITE ACCESSORIES **CONTROL PANELS** sales@SepticProducts.com SepticProducts.com adopted at the NOWRA October board meeting and was also presented at the Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (VOWRA) annual conference in Roanoke, Va. Participants agreed with the elements of design and we discussed the widely varying authorities and responsibilities of designers in various states.

While the discussion highlighted the various approaches to licensing and training designers, everyone agreed that there is a need for both good design and for training, including engineering designers. We also received good comments on the Standards of Practice, including some elements that will make good additions to the standards.

Clearly, good design makes for good installations and good systems. The national training programs for operators and installers have made for more consistent practices. Consistency from state to state has also improved due to the extensive use of third-party-tested advanced pre-engineered systems.

Currently, NOWRA has developed 13 modules for designer training. The training describes the Standard of Practice elements applicable for each design. These modules were developed for design training NOWRA will conduct for the Maryland Association of Onsite Wastewater Professionals (MOWPA) this spring. The advanced designs covered will include mounds, at-grade, low-pressure distribution (LPD) and drip.

NOWRA's goal is not to turn designers into engineers. Rather, it is to make sure designs of onsite systems – especially more complex designs – are done properly and that nonengineering practitioners – designers, regulators and others - have a better understanding of requirements for each design. Our approach combines classroom training with examples in the field and is fairly mathematics intensive. Readers can review the Standard of Practice and see course module summaries developed to date at www.nowra.org.

Again, good design makes for good installations and the more knowledge we can feed new designers, the easier life will be for installers and future operators.



industrynews

ADS adds fourth production line

Advanced Drainage Systems added a fourth manufacturing line to its Saint-Germain-de-Grantham, Quebec, Can., plant to produce large diameter, open-profile pipe from 900 to 1,500 mm. The facility is certified to produce N-12 corrugated HDPE pipe diameter from 100 to 900 mm with minimum pipe stiffness. It also is capable of making the company's SaniTite HP polypropylene pipe.

Hyundai sends aid to Philippines

Hyundai Heavy Industries Group, Hyundai Construction Equipment's parent company, donated \$200,000 via the Korean Red Cross in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Philippines. The company also dispatched a 21-ton-class excavator, backhoe loader and operators to the area to assist in recovery efforts.

Grundfos celebrates 40th anniversary

Grundfos celebrated 40 years of operations in the United States with the unveiling of a commemorative sculpture at its facility in Fresno, Calif., in November. The Denmark-based pump manufacturer expanded to the U.S. in 1973, growing to more than 1,300 employees in five locations nationwide.

Thompson Pump relocates Maryland branch

Thompson Pump and Manufacturing Co. relocated its Baltimore-Washington branch to a larger facility at 711 Pittman Road, Baltimore. The facility, located on 4.6 acres, provides sales, parts and service to Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and portions of New York and New Jersey.

Topp Industries names managers

Topp Industries appointed J.J. Lang to manage U.S. and Canadian wholesale business and named Tim Merkel outside sales manager, responsible for OEM and engineered sales accounts.

Franklin Equipment opens Ohio branch

Franklin Equipment opened a fourth Ohio location in Newcomerstown. The facility will provide equipment rental for construction and landscaping companies and the oil and gas industry.

WesTech facility receives ISO certification

WesTech Engineering's Iowa office received ISO 9001:2008 certification. The facility oversees the company's general filter and microfloc product lines.

Kohler creates story-sharing blog

Kohler created a story-sharing blog, Believing In Better (www.believe. kohler.com), to highlight the successes in sustainability achieved by its associates, channel partners and consumers.

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AERATORS

We sell Flagg-Air 340, Secoh, Gast and Medo Linear, FPZ and Gast Regenerative, Thomas and Gast Rotary Vane aerators, rebuild kits and alarms at wholesale prices. Septic Services, Inc. www.septicserv.com. 1-800-536-5564 (IM)

BUSINESSES

Florida state septic license available to qualify your company. Reasonable terms. Contact Jake 352-200-1522.

DRAINFIELD RESTORATION

Soil Shaker 2000. Universal skid steer attachment for drainfield restoration. Buy factory direct. \$6,250. Check us out on YouTube or call 320-293-6644. (PBM)

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HAND TOOLS

Crust Busters - Portable, lightweight machine guaranteed to mix up septic tanks and grease traps! Save time and money! www.crust busters.com, 1-888-878-2296.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

USG is a growing Pennsylvania-based company seeking CCTV, grouting, jet/vac, CIPP, HDD, lateral rehab and manhole rehabilitation technicians and foremen. Applicants should have a minimum of 1 year experience in the industry. We are an EOE offering great pay, relocation subsidy and steady work. Send resumes to HR@usginc.net, Fax: 717-737-6093 or USG HR Department; 1304 Slate Hill Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 (P04)

PUMPS

Hydromatic, Zoeller, Liberty, ABS, Myers, grinder and effluent pumps. Lift station packages and high water alarms are also available. Septic Services, Inc. www.septicserv.com, 1-800-536-5564 (IM)

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Arizona

Arizona Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association; www.azowra.org; 928/443-0333

Arkansas -

Arkansas Onsite Wastewater Association; www.arkowa.com

California -

California Onsite Wastewater Association; www.cowa.org; 530/513-6658

Colorado

Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater; www.cpow.net; 720/626-8989

Connecticut -

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association; www.cowra-online.org; 860/267-1057

Delaware

Delaware On-Site Wastewater Recycling Association; www.dowra.org

Florida ·

Florida Onsite Wastewater Association; www.fowaonsite.com; 321/363-1590

Georgia

Georgia Onsite Wastewater Association; www.onsitewastewater.org; 678/646-0379

Georgia F.O.G. Alliance; www.georgiafog.com

Idaho -

Onsite Wastewater Association of Idaho: www.owaidaho.org; 208/664-2133

Illinois

Onsite Wastewater Professionals of Illinois; www.owpi.net

Indiana

Indiana Onsite Waste Water Professionals Association; www.iowpa.org; 317/889-2382

Iowa

Iowa Onsite Waste Water Association: www.iowwa.com; 515/225-1051

Kansas

Kansas Small Flows Association; www.ksfa.org; 913/594-1472

Kentucky

Kentucky Onsite Wastewater Association; www.kentuckyonsite.org; 855/818-5692

Maine

Maine Association Of Site Evaluators;

www mainese com

Maine Association of **Professional Soil Scientists:** www.mapss.org

Maryland

Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association; www.mowpa.org; 443/570-2029

Michigan

Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association; www.mowra.org

Michigan Septic Tank Association: www.msta.biz; 989/808-8648

Minnesota ·

Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association; www.mowa-mn.com: 888/810-4178

Missouri -

Missouri Smallflows Organization; www.mosmallflows.org; 417/739-4100

Nebraska-

Nebraska On-site Waste Water Association; www.nowwa.org; 402/476-0162

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Association of Septage Haulers; www.nhash.com: 603/831-8670

Granite State Designers and Installers Association; www.gsdia.org; 603/228-1231

New Mexico

Professional Onsite Wastewater Reuse Association of New Mexico; www.powranm.org; 505/989-7676

North Carolina

North Carolina Septic Tank Association; www.ncsta.net: 336/416-3564

North Carolina Portable Toilet Group;

www.ncportabletoiletgroup. 252/249-1097

North Carolina Pumper Group; www.ncpumpergroup.org;

252/249-1097

Ohio-

Ohio Onsite Wastewater Association; www.ohioonsite.org; 866/843-4429

Oregon ·

Oregon Onsite Wastewater Association; www.o2wa.org; 541/389-6692

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers;

www.pa-seo.org; 717/761-8648

Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association;

www.powra.org

Pennsylvania Septage Management Association;

www.psma.net; 717/763-7762

Tennessee

Tennessee Onsite Wastewater Association; www.tnonsite.org

Texas-

Texas On-Site Wastewater Association;

www.txowa.org; 888/398-7188

Virginia

Virginia Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association;

> www.vowra.org; 540/377-9830

Washington -

Washington On-Site Sewage Association;

> www.wossa.org; 253/770-6594

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association;

www.wowra.com; 608/441-1436

Wisconsin Liquid Waste Carriers Association;

www.wlwca.com: 608/441-1436

NATIONAL-

Water Environment Federation; www.wef.org;

800/666-0206

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association;

www.nowra.org; 800/966-2942

National Association of Wastewater Technicians:

www.nawt.org; 800/236-6298

CANADA

Alberta -

Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association;

www.aowma.com; 877/489-7471

British Columbia

WCOWMA Onsite Wastewater Management of B.C.; www.wcowma-bc.com; 877/489-7471

Manitoba -

Manitoba Onsite Wastewater Management Association;

www.mowma.org; 877/489-7471

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Association of Onsite Wastewater Professionals; www.nbaowp.ca; 506/455-5477

Nova Scotia -

Waste Water Nova Scotia; www.wwns.ca: 902/246-2131

Ontario

Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association; www.oowa.org; 855/905-6692

Ontario Association of Sewage **Industry Services**;

www.oasisontario.on.ca; 877/202-0082

Saskatchewan -

Saskatchewan Onsite Wastewater Management Association;

www.sowma.ca; 877/489-7471

Canadian Regional

Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association:

> www.wcowma.com; 877/489-7471

Featured In An Article? We provide reprint options



Pumps

By Craig Mandli

Pumps can help perform a variety of tasks as components in an onsite system, including grinding biosolids, conveying effluent or sewage, and providing aeration in a lagoon or pond. Here are several pumps designed to perform various functions in onsite systems.

EFFLUENT PUMPS

Heavy-duty effluent pump

Heavy-duty effluent pumps from Ashland Pump are available in multiple horsepower sizes for various performance requirements, and feature efficient permanent split capacitor (PSC) motors. The oil-filled pumps feature upper and lower ball bearing design and handle solids up to 3/4 inch. They are made of heavy



cast iron, with cast-iron impellers and equipped with a piggyback switch (20-foot standard cord) or in manual configurations. 855/281-6830; www. ashlandpump.com.

Effluent turbine pump

Effluent turbine pumps from Clarus Environmental are available in capacities from 11 to 85 gpm, with heads up to 500 feet. Pumps range from 1/2 to 3 hp. The 1/2 hp pumps are available in 115 or 230 volts, and are powered by Franklin Electric motors. They feature discharges of 1 1/4 inches for 11, 19 and 27 gpm models, and 2 inches for 35, 55 and 85 gpm models. Starting boxes are not required for pumps 1 1/2 hp and below, but are included with 2 and 3 hp models. They come standard with a 10-inch jacketed cord, but cord



lengths up to 100 inches are available. It is recommended that all Clarus pumps are installed in a filtered STEP vault or in a pump tank receiving filtered effluent from a septic tank filter. 800/928-7867 www. clarusenvironmental.com.

Submersible cistern pump

C1 Series stainless steel submersible cistern pumps from Franklin Electric are used in graywater/filtered effluent septic system applications, and pass solids up to 1/8 inch in diameter without impacting pump life. Constructed of a 304 stainless steel motor and outer shell with engineered polymer hydraulics providing corrosion resistance and abrasive handling, features include a thermoplastic discharge head to avoid breakage during installation and operation, and a removable 5-inch-wide base for secure and reliable mounting. The motor lead connection is protected with a rubber boot and secured with a stainless steel strain relief, and its bottom-suction



design allows for maximum fluid drawdown without compromising durability or pump life. Pumps are available with 115- or 230-volt, 1/2 hp single-phase motor, in flow ratings of 10, 20 and 30 gpm, and a maximum shut-off pressure of more than 100 psi. 800/269-0063; www. franklin-electric.com.

Ready-to-install pump package

Biotube ProPak packages from Orenco Systems are complete, ready-to-install pump packages. They are used for filtering and pumping effluent from single- or dual-compartment septic tanks to either gravity or pressurized discharge points, with no pump tank required. The filter cartridge filters up to two-thirds of solids, so that only liquid from the "clear zone" between the tank or basin's scum and sludge layers is pumped. This reduces biological loading and



Quartics*

clogging of downstream components, saving operation and maintenance costs and helping extend the lives of drainfields and other downstream components. The filter cartridge is easy to remove and clean – without pulling the pump vault. The PF-series high-head effluent pump is field serviceable and repairable, and pump controls are designed for the specific package. Multiple models are available. 800/348-9843; www.orenco.com.

High-head turbine pump

The Plus line of high-head turbine pumps from Quanics Inc. are available in 10, 20 and 30 gpm models, with head capacities of up to 250 feet. The 1/2 hp, 115-volt motors have minimum 24-hour dry run capability, and offer thermal overload protection. They are constructed of 300-grade stainless steel and engineered composite materials. The bottom intake design allows for greater drawdown and eliminates the need for flow inducer sleeves. 877/782-6427; www.quanics.net.



AERATION PUMPS

Flood-resistant aerator

The flood-resistant 700++ aerator from Jet Inc. is the only mechanical component in the company's 1500 Series BAT Media Plant, working in tandem with the BAT Media to provide complete biological processing. The aerator shaft spins and combines fresh, outside air with the wastewater in the treatment compartment. Air travels through the aerator and into the tank, providing oxygen for the treatment process. Foam is controlled by the foam restrictor. Operation is nearly silent. The aerator is sealed to protect it from damage by water; however it is not designed to operate under water for extended periods of time. 800/321-6960; www. jetincorp.com.

Long-life aerator

The Singulair Model 206C aerator from Norweco includes special alloy and molded plastic parts to prolong aerator life. With watertight integrity ball bearings, radial air intake openings, NEMA 6-rated waterproof electrical connections and a UL recognized fractional horsepower motor, it combines advanced electromechanical components with energy efficiency. It is UL listed and CSA certified. 800/667-9326; www.norweco.com.

Linear air pump

The STA80AL Whirlwind pump from Septic Services Inc. features an integrated audible alarm and warning light to monitor pump performance. It conforms to local codes that may require units to be equipped with an alarm system. It has a flow rate of 4.0 cfm and is capable of 2.0 psi. In addition, the unit has thicker diaphragms and an oversized



shuttle helping to produce greater performance and longevity. It is easy to install and includes inside-threaded outlet pipe and a 6-foot power cord, as well as a toggle switch to test the alarm and warning light. It comes with hose and clips. 800/536-5564; www.septicserv.com/store.

SEWAGE PUMPS

Backup pumping system

Designed to deliver all the benefits of our sound-attenuated silent pumps, the ReliaPrime emergency bypass station from Gorman-Rupp Company operates on natural gas, making it quiet, efficient and environmentally friendly. It features a 6-inch Super T Series pump capable of passing a 3-inch spherical solid, and offers a



soundproof, lightweight aluminum enclosure with lockable door panels that are easily removed for engine or pump maintenance. This unit is a complete backup package ready for emergency hookup in power outages, for primary pump repair and for additional pumping capacity. 419/755-1011; www.grpumps.com.

Sewage pump

S Pumps from Grundfos Pumps can be used for transferring unscreened raw sewage or water, pumping water containing sludge or pumping industrial effluent. They feature a SmartTrim impeller clearance adjustment system and SmartSeal for leakage prevention. The SmartTrim system makes it easy to adjust factory-set impeller clearance to maintain efficiency. The SmartSeal auto-coupling gasket provides a leakproof connection between the pump



and the base unit of the auto-coupling system. The shaft seal is capable of rotating in either direction. When installed with separate pipework, sludge sedimentation can be avoided by back-flushing at regular intervals. 800/921-7867; www.grundfos.us.

Submersible sewage pump

ABS submersible sewage pumps from Sulzer Pumps / ABS USA use premium-efficiency IE3 motors for low operating cost and reduced carbon footprint. Long-term reliability limits the risk of overflows. A Contrablock Plus impeller provides quality rag handling. 800/525-7790; www.sulzer.com.



GRINDER PUMPS

Grinder pump

The 2 hp grinder pump from Champion Pump provides up to 133 feet TDH option. The starting components are optional, eliminating the need for expensive control panels. Also available in a threephase system, its quick-disconnect cord is available up to 50 feet, allowing it to be replaced without disturbing the wiring in the panel and conduit. It is offered as a packaged system complete with guide



rails built to specifications. 800/659-4491; www.championpump.com.

Grinder pump station

The E/One Extreme grinder pump station from Environment One Corporation provides 185 feet TDH, corrosion protection and expanded communications. It needs no preventive maintenance and is available in prepackaged wet well/drywell systems. The grinder pump station collects wastewater, grinds solids and moves the effluent through 1 1/4- to 4-inch pipe to treatment. 518/579-3068; www.eone.com.



Progressive cavity pump

The M3068.175 progressive cavity pump from Flygt – a Xylem Brand, brings a municipal-grade wastewater pump for residential use. Engineered to meet the rigors of wastewater systems, it features an impeller for optimum hydraulic efficiency and a heavy-duty cutting device that grinds solids into 1/4- by 5/8-inch particles for easy transport through small-diameter pipes, eliminating the risk of clogging. It utilizes a Griploc seal system consisting of two mechanical seals that provide double security against water intrusion. It is equipped with an air-filled motor having stators that are trickle-impregnated with



resin to eliminate air pockets and allow 30 starts per hour. Its radial grinding mechanism has been used successfully in municipal pumps for more than 20 years. 704/409-9700; www.flygtus.com.

Buildup-preventing grinder pump

The 1GA and 2GA 1 1/2- and 2-inch grinder pumps from Goulds Water Technology - a Xylem Brand, are ideal for high head and pressure sewage systems in municipal, commercial or industrial applications. The cutter system is designed to reduce sewage to a fine slurry, preventing buildup. A standard feature on these pumps is the float leakage sensor (FLS), a small internal float switch



used to detect the presence of water in the stator chamber. When this is activated, a monitoring relay will signal an alarm, and if desired, stop the

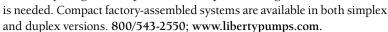
pump. The impeller and casing are made of cast iron and designed for high efficiency. The pumps are painted with a two-coat system to ensure superior surface protection. 866/325-4210; www.goulds.com.

Pressurized grinding system

The InviziQ pressure sewer system uses grinding and pumping to move sewage efficiently to treatment facilities regardless of the terrain, slope, environmental sensitivity or topography. It offers a dry-well design and clean access to the system motor and other working parts. Network monitoring and control is built in. 513/226-6961; www.inviziq.com.

Residential grinder pump

The **ProVore** grinder pump from **Liberty Pumps** is designed for use in residential applications where the addition of a bathroom or other fixtures below sewer lines requires pumping. It features the same V-Slicecutter technology utilized in Omnivore Series 2 hp grinder pumps. Powered by a 1 hp motor, it is designed to operate on a standard 115- or 230-volt circuit requiring a 20-amp breaker. No special wiring



Durable grinder pump

MVP Series grinder pumps from Weber Industries - Webtrol Pumps are constructed from type 304 stainless steel and cast iron. The hardened, antiwear grinding ring and cutter and recessed, cast-iron vortex impeller are designed to provide years of trouble-free service. This series features double mechanical seals, as well as potted epoxy cord seals, to prevent water intrusion into the motor, extending the life of the pump. They are available in 1 and 2 hp, with up to 100 feet TDH. 800/769-7867; www.webtrol.com. □



installer Socially Accepted





productnews



Gehl RT Series track loaders

RT Series radial-lift track loaders from Gehl feature Tier IV Yanmar diesel engines with 69.9 hp and 217 ft-lbs of torque on the RT175 GEN:2 and 72 hp with 217 ft-lbs of torque on the RT210. The RT175 has a rated operating capacity of 1,700 pounds,

while the RT210 has a rated operating capacity of 2,100 pounds. The RT175 weighs 8,605 pounds and the RT210 weighs 9,890 pounds. Both models deliver 10 feet 6 inches of lift height. 800/628-0491; www.gehl.com.

Stanley Vidmar 55 cabinets

5S cabinets from Stanley Vidmar are designed to fulfill lean and Kaizen storage requirements. Features include Plexiglas or solid hinged doors with metal pegboard inserts, heavy-duty lock and difficult to duplicate key system. 800/523-9462; www.stanleyvidmar.com.





Zoeller Z-Rail pump disconnect system

The Z-Rail pump disconnect system from Zoeller Co. is designed for threaded discharge submersible pumps. Rated to 250 feet TDH, the system is available in 1 1/4-inch vertical or horizontal NPT, 1 1/2-inch and 2-inch vertical. Additional versions and configurations, including nonsparking for use with Class 1 Division 1 pumps in hazardous locations are available. 800/928-7867; www.zoeller.com. □



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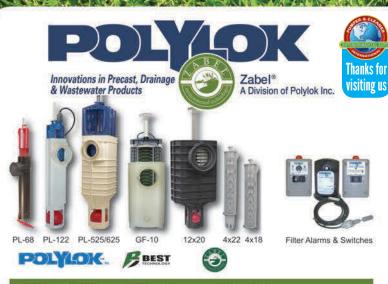
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