

## SAN FRANCISCO BAY SECTION

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### California Water Environment Association

INKSPOT

JUNE 2004

### Greetings from the President, Ray Busch

#### FRESNO Annual Conference

The Fresno conference was a good one. Bay Section members were a big part of it on many levels. Four Bay Section members were on the conference committee, as well as many conference sub-committee members, and a whole lot of session moderators.

Randy Fiorucci put together a dynamite program, Teresa Herrera led the advance artwork, marketing and conference pins (gotta love the tractor), Leo Gonzalez shook the trees and made rain by getting conference sponsors, and I heard the Film Festival was pretty good too.

Bay Section highlights included seeing the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Oceanside treatment plant win Plant of the Year (Large Plant). Also another SFBS member was inducted into the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers (congratulations Darren Greenwood). At the apex of good things happening to SFBS members was seeing SFBS Past President Kathy Suter move one slot closer to the top of the CWEA organization as the official President Elect.

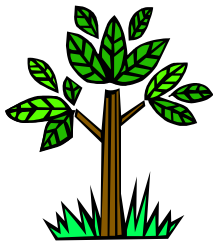
I enjoyed going to President Larry Tolby's reception there in Fresno. While talking to him I once again reflected on what a good President he was. I had the pleasure of flying with Larry to Big Bear, CA as he presided over his first installation meeting of his term. It was there I

saw his determination to attend every Section's installation meeting. I then realized that he was very dedicated to CWEA and its membership.

During the opening session of the conference I had my eyes opened to just how good we have it here in the modern world. I listened to Steve Werner from the Water for People organization. He stated the facts plain and simple. Three people every minute or the equivalent of one jumbo jet every hour, hour after hour, die directly due to poor water conditions in many countries. There are countless others who are sick and severely discomforted from inadequate water conditions.

The good news is that there are good people working hard to help. The Water for People organization arrange for the affected people to make the needed improvements using only local materials. They educate these very same people about water and sanitation. About 87% of every dollar received goes directly to the actual work not administration.

At the SFBS Board meeting we discussed ways that our professional association (the Bay Section in particular) could help this worthwhile organization. I know something good will happen to support this worthwhile organization. I hope to see all of you at the June dinner meeting. We always skip a meeting in July so, don't let two months of all the best of professional edification pass you by.



## Musings from the Editor...

Isn't it amazing to see the life burst forth from the earth during this season of Spring? Watching the hills turn golden brown as the weather turns warm and rain subsides? Nature, in Her multitude of manifestations, is so insistent! She will not be denied the growth that **MUST** occur. Even in the decay of the dying wildflowers and grasses, there are the seeds of the new life.

"How does one become a butterfly?" she asked pensively.

"You must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar."

~ Trina Paulus

We need to remember... that we, too, are part of this cycle. I think we have that tendency to mentally separate ourselves from nature, instead of remembering that we are a part of it. We isolate ourselves, yet, we are not separate from it at all. No, we don't have to go around hugging trees (though, you may want to... I am not judging whether this is a good/bad thing). What we can do, is view our natural world with the knowledge that it reflects our own lives. When you feel 'down', look at the wilted leaves of a plant and notice yourself in them. Give the plant some water and nourishment, and see it become enlivened. Give yourself some rejuvenating nourishment, whatever form that takes, and watch yourself become infused with life!

Might I even suggest taking a walk in a part of the earth not covered by human structures? Go to the park. Go for a hike. Walk by a stream or in a forest. Go to Mt. Diablo or Muir Woods or the ocean. At those times when we are most inundated with all of the responsibilities and demands of our lives, do we need this sort of respite. It never ceases to amaze me... the rejuvenating effects that nature has on my body/spirit/soul. Such a simple tonic, yet so infrequently imbibed.

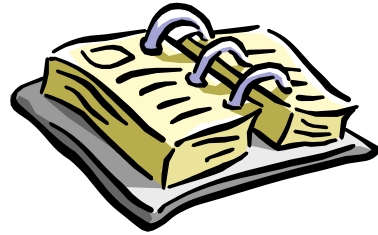
And... might I go even further and suggest that we slow down our pace as we walk through the world of nature? Leave the worries of life behind. Leave the hurriedness that usually encompasses us behind. Leave behind the need to be somewhere else. Just be where you are.

In fact, stop and sit. Just stop and sit. Remain still for even a few minutes. Remain still. Remain silent. You will be surprised by what you notice... what you see, smell, hear, feel. Take that moment of time to experience existence without any sort of "doing" involved. Simply experience the underlying hum of life that exists.

Just a suggestion...

Take care.

**SFBS CALENDAR**



<b>JUNE 2004</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>SFBS Monthly Dinner Meeting - Cattlemen's Restaurant in Livermore</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Northern Regional Committee Meeting, CWEA Office, Oakland</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Plant O&amp;M Committee Meeting/Tour, Oro Loma S.D. Call 925 335-7782 for info.</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>SCVS Sponsors Marine Science Institute Discover Day (see below)</b>
<b>AUGUST 2004</b>	
<b>4-7</b>	<b>CASA Conference, Monterey. Call 916-446-0388</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 2004</b>	
<b>12-14</b>	<b>NORTHERN REGIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE</b>

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<b>Newsletter Editor</b> <a href="mailto:therrera@whitleyburchett.com">therrera@whitleyburchett.com</a>	<b>Teresa Herrera</b> 925-945-6850	<b>TCP Officer</b> <a href="mailto:santosac@worldnet.att.net">santosac@worldnet.att.net</a>	<b>Angelino Santos</b> 510-481-6996
<b>Collection System</b> <a href="mailto:walter@stegesd.dst.ca.us">walter@stegesd.dst.ca.us</a>	<b>Walter Lunn</b> 510-524-4668		

San Francisco Bay Section/CWEA  
14 Echo Court  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523