

## WINTER MEETING WRAP-UP

Once again Virginia's drillers proved that you can't keep good men down. More than 350 contractors and exhibitors participated in classes. The 51 exhibitors who participated in the trade show had booth displays that covered all of the major products and services used by the industry.



Exhibitors see plenty of traffic in the trade show

## 2010 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

This year's VWVA Scholarship winner is Candace Raynell Brown. Her member sponsor is Yadkin Well Drilling, Yadkin, NC.

Our 2010 Scholarship winner is seeking a Bachelor's degree in Architecture at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. She sees her career choice as a way in which she can directly affect the sustainability of water in the environment.

Her interest is in creating structures that can harness the use of water or minimize the

environmental impact of structural design on water. Her long term goal is to be the owner of an architectural firm where she can implement as many water conserving and cleaning devices and designs as are available.

She is the daughter of a third generation well driller and the first person in her family to seek a college degree. During her high school and college years she has been on the Dean's list and maintained above a 3 point grade average. She is involved in the American Institute of Architecture Student's club.

## ASSOCIATION SUCCEEDS IN THE LEGISLATURE AGAIN!

VWVA's legislative efforts again had a positive impact during this year's General Assembly. Important to the association were two bills, HB 416 and HB1310.

**HB 416**, patroned by Del. Glen Oder, created an additional seat on the Board of Contractors specifically designated for a water well systems provider. In doing so, the total membership of the Board was increased from 14 to 15 members. Members of VWVA's lobbying team, lead by our lobbyist, Teresa Gregson were successful in achieving passage of this bill.

**HB 1310**, patroned by Del. David Bulova, created a new certification process for direct exchange geothermal heat pump ground loop system providers. VWVA opposed this bill because the new certification process failed to adequately take into consideration the Private Well Regulations currently required for all Virginia well drillers through the VA Department of Health (VDH). It is the Private Well Regulations which address the

appropriate way to construct water well in order to protect Virginia's groundwater resources.

The bill was tabled in committee, and VWWA was invited to help rewrite the bill in a manner that was protective of ground water resources. Thanks to our legislative team, Teresa Gregson, Scott Miller, Eric Rorrer and Robert Royall for their many trips to the statehouse to speak on behalf of the drilling industry.

## **ERIC RORRER INSTALLED AS PRESIDENT**

Eric Rorrer, Certified Master Water Systems Provider and owner of Rorrer Well Drilling, Christiansburg, VA, is VWWA's new president. Rorrer was installed by outgoing president, Scott Miller, Northern Virginia Well Drilling.

A second generation well driller, Rorrer has been in business since 1995. He has served on the VWWA board for 10 years. His company does water wells, water systems, water filtration, geothermal wells, environmental wells, and construction drilling. In addition the company does coal related drilling (ventilation wells, electronic log wells, dewatering wells) along with excavation and septic systems.

Rorrer is a key player in VWWA's legislative activities, and was instrumental in the association's efforts to pass HB 416 (which added a seat for well drillers to the Board for Contractors) and in getting HB1310 tabled. (See article, p. 1)



Scott hands over the association "reins" to Eric

## **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD in the Virginia Water Well Assoc.**

We are inviting you to be a part of a VWWA task force. Help make the VWWA a more effective association for you and other members.

Here are the task forces that are available for you to join! (*members who are certified at any level are eligible for these positions.*)

- Finance
- Nominating
- Legislative
- Regulations
- Bylaws
- Education

### **Make a difference in the well industry by participating in statewide committees!**

Due to successful legislative actions, the association now has positions on several statewide board and committees.

Currently there are 2 positions to be filled:

1. A seat on the Board for Contractors that is specifically dedicated to a Certified Water Systems Provider; and
2. A seat on the Water Supply Planning Advisory Committee, also dedicated to a CWSP. (*Master Drillers only are eligible for these positions.*)

If you would like to accept this invitation and join a task force, please fill out this form on the back page and return it to VWWA headquarters, PO Box 1128, New Market VA 22844 or fax it to (540) 740-4556.

## **JEEP WINNER TAKES THE \$**

Jerry Jones, of Richmond, VA won VWWA's Jeep raffle. Jones, a local retiree, who happened to be in the Holiday Inn lounge was approached by a zealous association member selling tickets and bought just one!

When informed of his win, he opted to take the cash option instead of the Jeep. He said he'd love to have the Jeep but after much soul searching decided that practical considerations must rule. The association cleared over \$6,000 on the raffle.

# **NC PLUMBING AND HEATING BOARD NIXES WELL DRILLERS INSTALLING GEOTHERMAL WELLS**

In November of 2009, North Carolina Well Drillers were startled by the following ruling from the NC State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors:

## **GEOTHERMAL HVAC INSTALLATIONS**

Over the last several years with the increased popularity of geothermal HVAC system installations there has been an increased misunderstanding on the licensing requirements for these installations. Although incorrect, there is a widely held belief in the industry that well contractors can perform the piping installation on geothermal installations, be it vertical or horizontal. The act of drilling the well and grouting the well casing is not governed by our licensing board, but the task of installing the piping (open loop or closed loop) is regulated by the Board's Laws and Rules. The installation of piping does require either an H-3 license (for systems 15 tons or below) or an H-2 license for systems larger than 15 tons. The definition of H-3 and H-2 reads in part as follows:

*The phrase "heating, group number two" means an integral system for heating or cooling a building consisting of an assemblage of interacting components producing conditioned air to raise or lower the temperature, and having a mechanical refrigeration capacity in excess of fifteen tons, and which circulates air.*

*The phrase "heating, group number three" shall be deemed and held to be a direct heating or cooling system of a building that raises or lowers the temperature of the space within the building for the purpose of comfort in which electric heating elements or products of combustion exchange heat either directly with the building supply air or indirectly through a heat exchanger using an air distribution system of ducts and having a mechanical refrigeration capacity of 15 tons or less. A heating system requiring air distribution ducts and supplied by ground water or utilizing a coil supplied by water from a domestic hot water heater not exceeding 150 degrees Fahrenheit requires either plumbing or heating group number one license to extend piping from valved connections in the domestic hot water system to the heating coil and requires either heating group number one or*

*heating group number three license for installation of coil, duct work, controls, drains and related appurtenances.*

Licensees who hold H-1 licenses **cannot** perform the geothermal piping installations since their license (H-1) only covers hot water or steam piping systems. It is illegal for a well contractor to contract the geothermal piping installation even if the geothermal piping installation is subcontracted to a licensee who holds the appropriate license. In addition, it is illegal for a licensee (H-2 or H-3) to subcontract these installations from a well contractor. Well contractors can only contract or perform that is classified as well construction activities through their board. Should anyone have any questions or concerns please contact our office for further details.

The PA Ground Water Association is dealing with the pipe fitters union claiming that certain parts of geothermal installations are "by right" the sole responsibility of their trade.

Unfortunately, this may be the beginning of an intense debate not only over who is qualified to install geothermal wells and loop systems, but who has the right certifications.

Both the National Ground Water Association and the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association are developing certification programs that are aimed at keeping drillers a part of the installation process. At this time, however, neither organization can be turned to for definitive answers.

In July, at the South Atlantic JUBILEE, will hold an International Ground Source Heat Pump training for drillers who want to install geothermal wells. Drillers who participate will receive a certificate of training. At this point, this is one of the few "credentials" available. As yet, there is no consistency from state to state with regard to the qualifications necessary for doing geothermal drilling.

For information on the IGSHPA driller accreditation workshop, contact JUBILEE offices at 540-740-3329 or email [info@well-drillers.com](mailto:info@well-drillers.com)

Editor's note: The battle over who is entitled to do what with regard to geothermal installations is just getting warmed up. In Pennsylvania, the pipe fitters union has claimed the "sole right" to fusing geothermal pipe.

We are expecting to see a number of very different regulations and/or laws to be forthcoming – unfortunately creating confusion and in many cases, not protective of groundwater.

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Address Service Requested

P.O. Box 1128  
New Market, Virginia 22844



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## Make **YOUR** VOICE HEARD IN THE VIRGINIA WATER WELL ASSOCIATION

To accept the invitation to join a task force or to apply for a seat on statewide committees, please fill out this form and return it immediately to VWVA headquarters!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Email a must for statewide committees.*

Certification level (circle one): **Master**      **Journeyman**      **Trainee**

I am interested in the following position(s): mark as many as apply.

**Board for Contractors**

**Water Systems Advisory Board**

**Finance**

**Marketing**

**Legislative**

**Regulations**

**Education**

**Nominating**

**Bylaws**