

## 59th Annual Water & Wastewater Operators Conference

### The History Begins With You!

Congratulations to the 2016 KWWOA Award Winners!

With these individuals we know our "History" is in good hands!



#### J. C. Chambers Award Recipient

**Angel Saltsman**

**Leitchfield Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Angel is a 25 year veteran of the Leitchfield WWTP, a modified activated sludge plant with bio-towers and a lagoon at the head of the plant. She collects and analyzes process control and compliance samples. Angel assists in implementing a pretreatment program with 11 industrial users and runs split samples on industrial monitoring. She also analyzes compliance samples for 3 additional KPDES facilities and 4 storm water facilities.

Angel holds Class III Wastewater Operator, Class IV Wastewater Analyst and Class IV Water Analyst certifications. Angel is a dedicated operator with a strong work ethic. She is self-taught in chemistry and biology. She actually enjoys reading Standard Methods, as evident by the tattered cover of the 18th edition at the WWTP. Most of all she enjoys the

wastewater profession and if we had more operators like her there would not be as many enforcement cases. With very little guidance, Angel has taken a WWTP lab to a certified general lab. She is curious about everything and will research topics and experiment until she is satisfied with her understanding of the topic. As a result, she was selected as the J.C. Chambers award winner in recognition of her commitment to the improvement of the technical progression of operations, maintenance and water quality produced by the Leitchfield WWTP.



#### Earl T. Mitchell Award Recipient

**Paul Goncher**

**Hardin County Water District No. 2**

Paul is the Assistant Distribution Manager for the Hardin County Water District No. 2 (HCWD#2) where he has worked for 25 years. He manages the day-to-day operation of a 900+ mile distribution system, with lines ranging from 2 to 24", 27,000 meter connections & 13 tanks. He supervises multiple crews, including a construction crew, meter installation crew, maintenance crews, leak repair crews, and a water quality department. Paul also oversees developer projects & in-house construction projects.

Paul holds a Class IIID distribution certification. Prior to his current position, Paul worked for a utility construction company for several years. Paul is one of the most dedicated HCWD#2 employees, earning the respect of his staff and management. He keeps his

company phone with him 24/7 and takes calls day and night and is always willing to answer questions or help solve problems. Paul demonstrates his commitment to the technical progression of operations, maintenance and water quality on a daily basis and readily deserves the Earl T. Mitchell Award.



#### Eugene Nicholas Award Recipient

**Robin Strader**

**Leitchfield Wastewater Treatment Plant**

When thinking about who should receive the Eugene Nicholas Award, which recognizes individuals who promote the operator community through education, one person stood out above the rest. During 2015, Robin Strader developed and presented a field certification training program that was conducted across the state in 11 separate locations resulting in over 2200 certification hours being turned in to DCA. This course was key to many facilities complying with new regulatory requirements and becoming certified in field analysis. To accomplish this task, she had to sacrifice many hours for no compensation and in some cases used vacation time to travel and conduct the training sessions.

In addition to the field certification classes, Robin also coordinated additional classes for KWWOA and taught lab analyst certification classes. For the past several years, Robin has also been KWWOA's Kentucky Lab Analyst "Committee of One," serves as the Central

Operator at the Leitchfield Wastewater Treatment Plant. Robin holds a class III wastewater treatment, class IV collection, Landfarm, class III distribution, class IVA drinking water treatment, and class III water and IV wastewater lab analyst certifications, so you know she is serious about her profession. She also serves on the Kentucky Board of Certification of Wastewater System Operators. KWWOA & Kentucky's operators benefit from Robin's hard work & dedication every day, earning her the Eugene Nicholas Award many times over.

## 2016 KWWOA Award Winners

### 2016 Drinking Water Plant Award

#### Glasgow Water Company—Lucas Water Treatment Plant

Received by Tim Smiley & Wesley Wilson



Glasgow Water Company's (GWC) Lucas Water Treatment Plant, originally built in 1965, treats water from Barren River Lake. The GWC administration had future needs and expansion in mind when selecting their original plant. In 2007 when they expanded their plant, they were able to build a mirror image of the existing plant to double their capacity, resulting in a seamless facility that does not look pieced together. In addition, Glasgow was also certified in 1998 by the Kentucky Division of Water as a microbiology lab to analyze drinking water samples for total coliform and E. coli bacteria. This allows GWC to respond to water emergencies much more efficiently.

The Lucas facility produces high quality drinking water using conventional treatment and is staffed by 8 individuals, 6 of whom are college educated. Education and the ability to learn new skills are paramount in today's increasingly complicated treatment technologies and in meeting or exceeding strict water quality standards. The city-owned utility also provides water on a wholesale basis to Allen County Water District, Caveland Environmental Authority, Edmonton Water, Fountain Run Water District and Green River Valley Water District. The Lucas treatment plant staff oversee the distribution of their water through an on-site SCADA (system control and data acquisition) which monitors water tank levels yielding a more efficient use of maintenance manpower. Scott Young, GWC general manager, stated, "This award is a testament to our mission, which is 'to provide the highest quality water and wastewater services at the lowest possible cost, while continuing our commitment to meet the needs of today's customers as well as future generations.'" Tim Smiley, Plant Superintendent, added "That this award is an honor, validating the commitment by the GWC administration and board to provide the means to produce quality, safe drinking water that exceeds federal and state requirements. Without the dedication and hard work of all of the water plant operators, this award would not be possible. As water treatment plant operators, this is one of the highest honors that we can receive. To receive this award, that encompasses the entire state, makes all the operators proud to be associated with the Glasgow Water Company."

### 2016 Wastewater Plant Award

#### Caveland Environmental Authority—Horse Cave WWTP

Received by Kim Klotter, Roger Humphrey & Morgan Christie



The Horse Cave Wastewater Treatment Plant (HCWWTP) serves Horse Cave, Bonnieville and a rest area located on Interstate 65. The plant is operated by three full-time operators, who also have responsibilities within Caveland Environmental Authority's (CEA) pretreatment program and the Cave City plant. The HCWWTP receives the effluent from Cave City WWTP and the effluents are combined to take advantage of one outfall on the Green River.

In 2008, CEA began a 2 million dollar expansion of HCWWTP largely to serve local industry at Dart Container, Sister Schubert's Homemade Rolls and T. Marzetti. The upgrade included new wastewater screening equipment, a clarifying tank, an ultra-violet disinfection unit and a sludge dewatering centrifuge. The treatment plant's average flow is 280,000 gallons and is now rated to treat 480,000 gallons per day with the expansion. After screening, treatment and disinfection, the water is discharged into Green River for reuse and recreation, as well as, helping to sustain healthy ecosystems downstream. Kim Klotter, Horse Cave Plant Supervisor, stated, "Being able to help the community and our environment at the same time is rewarding. Being recognized for your efforts by your peers is a real honor. We were pleasantly surprised and very appreciative to learn of this award but without the hard work and dedication from employees Morgan Christie and Roger Humphrey, this award would be hanging in another utility's office. They meet challenges, solve problems and work together. They are devoted to producing high quality water every day. Additionally, we are fortunate to have skilled co-workers who are always willing to help tackle projects with us. CEA has a great crew that works hard for great results."