

EPA Alumni Association News

December 2018



View from the Blue Ridge Parkway, NC (photo by R. C. Matthiessen 11/18)

President's Message

Dear Chuck ,

I appreciate the support and generosity of our members over the past year. Recently, we mailed our annual letter requesting donations to our 1800 members. Your financial support is much appreciated! If you have not yet contributed and wish to do so, information on how to do so is included below.



Phyllis Flaherty

Equally important is your willingness to contribute your time, experience, and expertise within and outside the Association! One example is the recent members survey on the "EPA of the Future." Last January, American University invited us to work with them to develop this survey. The survey is the result of tremendous work by the Focus Groups, the Committee, the Board, and American University.

To be successful, we needed you to take the survey. Thank you for doing so! Close to 400 alumni completed the survey with nearly equal participation across regional and headquarters alumni and across programs. The results (see below) will feed into the 2019 conference and related reports. These efforts are important to encouraging public dialogue on the environment.

Likewise, when the call went out for volunteers for our new Alumni in the Classroom pilot program, we received numerous replies from alumni whom we enrolled in the pilot. Educating



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Alumni Association Leadership

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Tom Voltaggio,
Vice President & Treasurer
David Menotti, Secretary

Chuck Elkins
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Derry Allen
Phil Angell
Betty Anderson
John Bachmann
Candace Brassard
Dave Calkins*
Sam Coleman

future generations is key to continuing effective environmental protection!

Another opportunity for alumni to continue to share their expertise has been brought to our attention. Although not an EPA Alumni Association project, we are including below an announcement offering fellowships to air quality experts willing to volunteer their time working with other countries to develop their capacity in air quality management.

I also want to announce that we will hold our annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on Monday, April 22, 2019.

Last, this newsletter includes an "in Memoriam" section to acknowledge and celebrate the lives of those alumni whom we have learned have recently passed away. If you know of others, please let us know.

Phyllis Flaherty
President

Chuck Elkins *
Penny Fenner-Crisp
Phyllis Flaherty
Mark Greenwood
David Menotti
Margo Oge
Tom Voltaggio
Marylouise Uhlig
Ingrid Wadsworth
Bob Wayland*
Steve Weil

* denotes
ex officio Members of the
Board

Directions for the EPA of the Future

Our survey of members about what a Future EPA should look like was completed by a robust percentage of those who received it. The results are now [here](#), on the Association's website. You can also read the excellent Focus Group reports compiled by fellow alumni last Spring [here](#).

Alumni in the Classroom

Over a hundred of our members have had a career in teaching either before or after EPA. Many more of us have years of experience as environmental practitioners and have knowledge and experience to share with the young people who will become our future leaders.

Therefore a pilot effort is underway to connect educators with some of our experienced alumni who have agreed to serve as a resource, not only in the classroom, but also to chat with educators who may want to consult an experienced practitioner by phone or email about some aspect of a class that the educator is developing.

Membership Tops 1,800

Welcome to the new members listed below who joined the Association since August, 2018. Click on any name to read the member's profile.

[Bill Barnard](#)
[Carol Baschon](#)
[Michael Berman](#)
[Briana Bill](#)
[John Bosch](#)
[Kathryn Boyle](#)
[Paul Bubbosh](#)
[Patricia Cirone](#)
[Sharon Daugherty](#)
[Richard Emory, Jr.](#)
[Earnest Falke](#)
[Anne Fenn](#)
[Timothy Fontaine](#)
[Jeff Gaines](#)

For example, a professor at Arizona State University recently invited alumnus practitioners to give a 10 minute presentations via video connection regarding the classroom topic of the day, and then to stay connected and participate in the professor's subsequent discussion with his students. Similarly, at a North Carolina high school recently, after the students had finished a series of class sessions on air pollution as part of their Advanced Placement course, the teacher had the students submit a set of technical and policy questions to an alumnus practitioner who then engaged with the class via video to answer their questions. In both these cases, the educators, the students, and the alumni found the experience enriching.

All of these services are, of course, offered free of charge or obligation by these volunteer alumni.

Check out WWW.EPAALUMNI.ORG/CLASSROOM for more information and help us spread the word among educators you know.



EPA Closes Las Vegas Lab

At the end of September, the EPA ORD Las Vegas operation located on the campus of the University of Nevada - Las Vegas (UNLV) closed. Drs. William Kepner of the National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) and Eric Koglin of the National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) were the last two from the operation to retire at the end of the month.

The Agency has a commitment to return the buildings to UNLV at the end of FY20. Four EPA staff will remain on-site to oversee cleanup. The Agency will continue to pay about \$3M on the lease until the end of FY20 for unoccupied buildings.

[Patricia Jackson](#)
[Martha Keating](#)
[Suzanne King](#)
[Joseph Laforvara](#)
[Stuart Lehman](#)
[Philip Mancusi-Ungaro](#)
[Eugenia McNaughton](#)
[Kevin Minoli](#)
[Oscar Morales](#)
[Andrea Pfahles-Hutchens](#)
[Amy Platt](#)
[Jan Prager](#)
[Sarah Rees](#)
[Brian Rourke](#)
[Thomas Schruben](#)
[Karen Seeh](#)
[Wendi Shafir](#)
[Henry Slack](#)
[Elyse Steiner](#)
[Stephan Sylvan](#)
[Robert Zucker](#)

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Thank You Donors

The Association is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. We greatly appreciate the contributions of members.

[Click Here to Make a Secure Online Donation Now](#)



The Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM, formerly OSWER) and the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) will continue their operations at a business park immediately adjacent to UNLV.

[Click for the Las Vegas Review-Journal article on the closure.](#)

[Click for an article from The Hill on the Las Vegas Lab.](#)

US Air Quality Capacity Building Fellowships

A new project funded by the US Department of State and implemented by RTI International will place eleven (11) Air Quality Fellows abroad with national and subnational governments in 12- to 18-month engagements where they will work together to enhance developing country capacity in air quality management. Efforts in host countries would support their institutional capacity in: air quality monitoring networks; development and improvement of emissions inventories; health-based air quality regulations; and enforceable air quality regulations. A selection of host countries will begin in November 2018 and Fellows recruitment will start in December 2018. For more information, click [HERE](#).

IN MEMORIAM

Don Clay

Sadly, Don Clay passed away November 4, 2018. He had a remarkable career at EPA that included serving at the Agency in AA, DAA and Office Director positions in OAR, OSWER, and OPPTS. Don was an early supporter of the EPA Alumni Association and former Board Member



Rebecca Clay, Don's daughter, wrote: "I'm so sorry to have to tell you that my dad died 11/4. It is devastating for all of us. He went into the hospital with suspected bronchitis on [Oct. 19th] and came out on the 30th with terminal cancer, later discovered to be non-Hodgkin's lymphoma."

Former colleagues remember Don's willingness to mentor staff members and his great sense of humor. His son and daughter-in-law are employees of EPA Region 6.

[Click for EPA Press Release.](#)

[Click for Washington Post obituary.](#)

If you prefer to send a check, please make it out to EPA Alumni Association and mail it to 2871 Southern Hills Drive, North Carden, VA 22959

Many thanks to all our members who have donated since August 2018:

Allan Abramson
Elizabeth Anderson
Roger Anzzolin
Donald Barnes
Anne Barton
Blake Biles
Richard Boice
Ronald Borsellino
Rob Brenner
David Carroll
Joe Cascio
Glenn Cekus
David Chin
Michael Cook
Norman Cook
Gail Cooper
Elaine Davies
J. Davies
Walter DeRieux
Richard Dewling
Linda Durkee
John Eagles
Jerry Emison
David Evans
Carl Ferrentino
Jerry Filbin
Maryann Froehlich
Jack Gakstatter
Linda Garczynski
Bob Geddis
Nanci Gelb
Willis Greenstreet
John Gustafson
Karl Hausker
Stephen Hogye
Debbie Janes

Janet S. Mason-Covington



Frank Covington and Janet
Mason Cunningham

Janet S. Mason-Covington of Gainesville, FL passed away on November 13th. She was a Program Manager for EPA Region 5, in Chicago, until she retired in 1995. Her husband, Frank Covington, former DRA in Region 5 died in January of 2014.

Jacqueline Colson

Jacqueline Colson, 67. of Arizona passed away September 13th after a long battle with Parkinsonism. She graduated from the University of Alabama with degrees in biology and law. Jacqueline was Region 4 Assistant Regional Counsel from 1984 to 1991 in project areas such as NPDES permits for the Crystal River Power Plant and Champion Paper and received a Presidential citation for her work. She also worked at the Alaska Department of Law in Fairbanks, AK.



[Click here for more information.](#)

Glenn Unterberger



Glenn Unterberger

Glenn L. Unterberger, who was an Associate Enforcement Counsel at EPA Headquarters, died on Sunday, October 14, 2018.

Glenn joined the Philadelphia law firm of Ballard Spahr in 1990. His firm noted that "he forged a reputation as one of the area's leading authorities on the Clean Air Act and advised numerous major companies on compliance with that and other environmental laws and regulations."

David Jesson
Lester Kaufman
Maury Kruth
John Lyon
Douglas MacMillan
Robert McManus
Dale Medearis
Jill Metcalf
Anne Miller
William Muno
Linda Murphy
Carl Myers
Bill Neuffer
John Neylan III
Donald Olson
Dorothy Patton
William Pedersen
Donna Perla
Michael Petruska
William Rhodes
Edward Rhodes Sr.
William Rice
Fred Rubel
Patricia Schultz
Michael Shapiro
Larry Shepard
Jon Silberman
Douglas Skie
Leo Stander
Steve Stodola
June Taylor
Joni Teter
Lee Thomas
Joseph Tikvart
Douglas Tully
Robert Varney
Linda Wandres
Robert Wayland
Don Williams
Richard Wilson
Sharon Wilson
Catherine Winer
John Wise
Edward Woo
Al Zemsky

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[Click here for Glenn's obituary in the Philadelphia Inquirer.](#)

Versille "Haig" Farmer

Haig Farmer, 78, died at home in Leesburg, VA on October 28, 2018. Haig was born in Richmond, VA and held BS and MS degrees in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech. He was retired after decades of dedicated civil service at EPA.



[Click for more information.](#)

Transition Updates Continue

When Steve Weil began preparing his weekly roundup of news about the transition at EPA, shortly about the time Scott Pruitt was nominated, nobody expected that there would still be significant vacancies in appointed positions at EPA well over a year later. We only send the Update to those who request it - currently ~720 of our members. If you would like to subscribe, [click here](#). If you aren't sure, browse recent issues which are posted on our web site [here](#).

March for Climate, Jobs and Justice

Several EPA alumni participated in the Sept. 8, 2018 March for Climate, Jobs and Justice in San Francisco. Alums marched in a variety of contingents including with current EPA employees. Organizers estimated the crowd to be around 30,000.



Follow us on [twitter](#)

Fall Luncheon Meeting Washington DC



On October 10th, the EPA Alumni Association had a Fall luncheon at DeCarlo's Restaurant in NW Washington, DC. Twenty-six people had a great time catching up with colleagues about their retirement activities along with an update on Alumni Association activities.

Region 6 Alumni Gathering

Region 6 had its "fall gathering" October 24. Despite torrential rains all day, attendance was especially great and it was terrific to see everyone again. Also on Thursday October 25, Regional Administrator Anne Idsall spoke at the Environmental Law Section of the Dallas Bar. Several Regional Alums attended her outstanding presentation.



Photo by Betty Williamson, formerly of Region 6

Region 9 Alumni Hike

About 24 EPA AA members hiked through the "wilds" of San Francisco recently. Here is the group in the Sutro Forest.



Photo by Dave Calkins

New Book by Alan Hecht

Alan Hecht, Director for Sustainable Development, U.S. EPA, authored a new book titled "Making America Green and Safe: Advancing Sustainable Development and Climate Change." The book provides a historical perspective of the evolution of science and policy actions on climate change and steps toward building a resilient and sustainable society, especially at EPA. The book is dedicated to career civil servants and has a foreword by William K. Reilly. It is published by Cambridge University Press and is available from Amazon [Click for info and to order.](#)

National Council for Science and the Environment Conference

The National Council on Science and the Environment (NCSE), which is helping us advertise our "Alumni in the Classroom" project, is holding a conference January 7 - 10, 2019, in Washington, D.C. The NCSE Annual Conference brings together a diverse community of experts from different disciplines for an opportunity to collaborate on projects, share research and best practices, and build professional relationships. Attendees include national and international leaders in education, government, civil society, and business. Sessions will explore the opportunities and challenges for sustainability at the convergence of built, natural, social, and cyber infrastructure. Registration and a full list of sessions and their descriptions can be found online [here.](#)

Who said this?

"Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise."

Answer below

George Washington Carver, American Botanist and Inventor, (1864-1943)

EPA Alumni Association

P.S. If you would rather not receive these newsletters, please email us at newsletter@EPAalumni.org rather than using SafeUnsubscribe, below.