

2021 Western States Alliance FOG Forum

WSA FOG Forum – Course Instructors

Course Title: Western States Alliance 2021 virtual Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Forum

Location: On-line conference

Date: 8:00am – 12 noon Wednesday, April 14, 15, 21 and 22, 2021

Presenter Training and Experience

Clayton Brown is Western States Alliance Program Manager at Pollution Prevention Resource Center. Prior to this position, he was Source Control Manager at Clean Water Services, Hillsboro, Oregon. Clayton has a BS in Biology from Portland State University and a Master of Business Administration from George Fox University. Clayton is a member of ACWA, National Association of Clean Water Agencies and was Board President, Pacific NW Source Control Training Association.

Hal Nielson is Branch Chief, Programs Operation Branch, Water and Environmental Programs, US Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service.

Ken Loucks is affectionately known as the Interceptor Whisperer. He has a knack for understanding grease interceptors and has spent more than 10 years learning how they work, how they have evolved over time and how to effectively manage them in fats, oils and grease (FOG) pretreatment programs. His experience in the plumbing industry goes back to 1989 beginning with his first job in wholesale distribution, then later as a manufacturer's representative, and finally directly for manufacturing. For the past several years he has worked specifically on codes, standards, ordinances, bylaws and policies as they affect commercial grease interceptors across the United States and Canada

Angela Walker is Wastewater Pretreatment Compliance Coordinator at Brunswick Glynn Joint Water and Sewer Commission (BGJWSC) in Brunswick GA where she has the sole responsibility for conducting regulatory compliance inspections. She has worked in wastewater treatment systems for nearly 20 years and has obtained multiple licenses in the state of Georgia. Angela is also responsible for the BGJWSC Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program. She has a BS in psychology from Liberty University

Mark Spencer holds a PhD in physical chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has spent two decades in environmental research, research and development and product development. He was last Director of Technology for Agiltron, a contract R&D company north of Boston. He spent a decade at NASA Ames Research Center measuring infrared absorption of atmospheric species. His experience in securing and managing government funded R&D programs will be used to expand the technology of water quality analysis.

Ed Gonzalez is Executive director of Pollution Prevention Resource Center. He has 20 years of experience working in the environmental and health fields, managing programs/projects in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, California, and now Washington. Ed holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Texas at El Paso. While working as Program Manager at University of Texas at El Paso, Ed's project work included: wetland restoration; providing access to potable water and health care for impoverished families in Juarez, Mexico; the introduction of green building concepts to local builders; and the management of the Southwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center.

Ed has also served as the Program Director of the Western Sustainability and Pollution Prevention Network (WSPPN), a cooperative alliance of pollution prevention (P2) programs throughout EPA Region 9, which is based out of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Mike Ditty is an Oregon Plumbing Inspector with additional inspection certifications in structural and mechanical disciplines. A journeyman plumber by profession, Mike spent many years working in all phases of the trade eventually becoming an estimator and project manager for a large commercial company. As an inspector, he worked mainly with industrial and large commercial projects. Fats, Oils, and Grease is one of his favorite topics and Mike has worked with Engineering Techs and Public Works to assist in training and coordination between the State Plumbing Code requirements and local agency standards. Mike teaches advanced code for plumbing apprentices at Clackamas Community College and has provided mandatory continuing education for plumbers and inspectors for many years.

Destin Ranch is an environmental Specialist with the City of Eugene, OR where he works with industries, restaurants, and our community to ensure that our Public Owned Wastewater Plant/ Sanitary collection system is protected from pollutants that may bypass the treatment plant and enter the Willamette River or cause damage to the collection system. He also works as a community outreach ambassador to educate about Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) and ways to prevent it from entering the collection system as well as causing blockages in residential plumbing.

TJ Suiter has been involved in the wastewater business for over 30 years. He started his first pipeline maintenance business in 1991, where he specialized in industrial and municipal sewer maintenance services. This service gave him plenty of hands-on experience dealing with fats, oils, and grease. He Franchised his business in 1995, and has several locations operating in the US to this day. He enjoys volunteer work, and considers a three-year period working with terminally ill patients at a Denver Hospice as one of the most meaningful and important times in his life. Out of this experience of working around dangerous pathogens came his invention and the development of antibacterial defense equipment to help protect his fellow wastewater workers. Today, this important safety equipment is sold throughout the US, Canada, and Australia.

Carey Johnston started with the U.S. EPA in 1995 and now works in EPA's Office of Compliance, Washington, DC, where he focuses on water pollution. Currently, he spends most of his time implementing a rulemaking that will require Clean Water Act permittees and regulators to use existing, available information technology to electronically report information and data related to the NPDES permit program in lieu of filing written reports. Carey has an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Virginia and a graduate degree in Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In his personal time, he likes to volunteer as a mentor in Boys Scouts and as a stream monitor for Arlington County counting benthic macroinvertebrates and E. Coli colonies.

Mia Pan is Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator at the City of Wilsonville, OR where she is responsible for Implementing the pretreatment program per the City of Wilsonville's NPDES permit, administering and enforcing permits for significant industries, regulating and enforcing industries and businesses, water quality monitoring and sampling. Prior to joining the City of Wilsonville, she worked at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Mia has a BA in Environmental Studies from Hampshire College and a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania

Matt Young is a Senior Environmental Technician for the Pretreatment Program of the City of McMinnville, OR. Matt has an associates degree in water/wastewater technology from Lynn-Benton Community College. Matt has Wastewater Collection System Operation Grade II and Wastewater Treatment System Operation Grade IV certification

John Gross is President and Founder of Goldstreet Designs, Bend, OR. John received his MBA for technology management from the University of Phoenix in 2005 with a B.A. from Central Washington University. Prior to founding Goldstreet, John worked for AT&T Wireless and Qwest Communications as part of their Corporate Account Sales Team providing Hi-Tech voice and data solutions to larger corporations in the Portland Metro area. John's skills include working with customers to develop a marketing/communications strategy that best fits the customers expected results and budget.

Rachel Garrett is a Wastewater Community Engagement Program Manager, Seattle Public Utilities. She has 18 years' experience doing community engagement work in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. She first began doing FOG outreach for a local wastewater municipality as a graduate intern in 2002. She has completed advanced trainings through the International Association of Public Participation and McKenzie-Mohr's Community-Based Social Marketing Program, and in 2020 received a certificate in applied Social Marketing through the International Social Marketing Association. Her degrees include a Bachelors' in Spanish and Business Administration from the University of Colorado, and a Masters' in Environmental Policy from Middlebury Institute at Monterey.

Brittany Huls Environmental Specialist with the city of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services. Manages batch discharge permits. Writes industrial and healthcare facility wastewater discharge permits, conducts facility inspections, assists staff with enforcement actions, program development, and routine technical assistance. Project work to streamline monitoring, reporting, and inspections processes. Completes the Annual Pretreatment Report submitted to the State. Industrial Permitting web page content manager. Brittany is a Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL). She has a BS in Environmental Science from Oregon State University

Sam Mcleod is the Director of Compliance for FOG BMP Software. Sam focuses on working with local governments, waste haulers, and corporate restaurant chains by offering expertise in the area of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) compliance to environmental and plumbing code requirements. Before joining FOG BMP Software, Sam served as Vice President of EPAS and Plumbing Division Business Unit Manager at NSF International. He has experience in the fields of grease trap testing/certification, grease trap research/development, wastewater consulting, plumbing codes/standards, and environmental compliance. Sam holds both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Masters of Science degree concentrated on the fields of Engineering and Environmental Studies.

Rich Prinster Strategic Business Development Manager at Aquatic Informatics where he is working with Utility Executives, Consulting and Engineering firms and other Business Partners to expose creative digital solutions to natural water analytics and regulatory compliance efforts using our portfolio of Aquarius, Linko, WaterTrax and Tokay software tools. He has a BS from the University of Wyoming

Michael O'Dwyer is CEO and founder of SwiftComply, a software solution that helps over 450 water & wastewater authorities manage their regulatory programs, specializing in FOG and Backflow programs. Michael previously worked for Dublin City Council in Ireland, where he developed and implemented Dublin's FOG source control program. Michael holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree in Engineering from University College Dublin.