



# Let's Talk Trash

March 2017 Edition

Volume 17, No. 1

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published by  
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## Highlights of the Joint NMRC/NM SWANA Bi-Annual Conference

by Terry Nelson, Nelson Solid Waste Consultant, LLC

The New Mexico Chapter of SWANA (NM SWANA) would like to thank all of the attendees, sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers that helped make the combined conference a success. The joint NMRC/NM SWANA Conference was held at the Marriott Uptown Hotel from September 26 - 28, 2016 and included over 196 attendees, 51 speakers, 59 tour attendees, 20 exhibitors and 23 sponsors. The theme for the 2016 Conference was "Overcoming Challenges in a New Era." The keynote speaker was Michelle Leonard, a nationally recognized expert in solid waste planning, recycling, and zero waste management with over 30 years of experience. In addition, attendees heard from EPA Region 6 Administrator, Ron Curry and New Mexico Environment Department Resource Protection Division Director, Kathryn Roberts. Monday's recycling tours included the Roadrunner Food Bank and the Friedman Recycling Facility. Solid Waste tours featured the Wagner/Caterpillar heavy equipment facility and the Bernalillo County East Mountain Transfer Station. The Organics tour included a visit to both Coralitos Springs and the nearby Tijeras Creek Restoration Project.

Also on Monday, two training classes were offered. One class was a 4-CEU training session sponsored by the NMED Solid Waste Bureau titled "Operations Plans: Escape From the Zombie Binders." This class (from 8 am until noon) was a hands-on workshop designed to assist managers and consultants prepare

effective operations, contingency and other required plans; as well as to implement these plans in an efficient way. The second Monday training class featured a 6-CEU training session provided by NMRC that focused on National Recycling topics.

The formal conference began on Tuesday, September 27 with introductions and keynote speakers. The exhibit/vendor hall also opened on Tuesday with various breakout sessions beginning at 11 AM and running until lunch, followed by more breakout sessions from 2:00 -3:30 pm. Breakout sessions included topics such as: Solid Waste Disaster and Disease Response; Managing Landfill Gases; C&D and Clean Fill sites; Closed Landfill Management; Full Cost Accounting; Illegal Dumping; and a multitude of recycling topics. Each breakout session at the conference was augmented by a series of "One-Minute Safety Topics."

Tuesday's activities also included an exhibitor/vendor session and open bar in the afternoon, which was followed by presentations of both Recycling and Solid Waste Awards. Joseph Ellis received the NM SWANA Lifetime Achievement Award for his invaluable contributions to solid waste and recycled materials management as the former (and now retired) manager of the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, having served over 20 years with the Authority. Joseph

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## Joint NM SWANA/NMRC Conference Tour of East Mountain Erosion Control Projects

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

As part of the September 2016 Joint Conference, multiple facility tours were offered on September 26, 2016. One tour featured storm water management and erosion control improvements using on-site organic materials, some imported rock and filter fabric, commonly available tools, and volunteer labor in a number of innovative ways. The tour was led by Jim Brooks of Soilutions, a well-known permaculture and erosion control specialist. Jill Holbert of the City of Albuquerque's Solid Waste Management Department also provided input regarding site history and assistance provided by the City of Albuquerque.

The tour began at Bernalillo County's open space visitor area known as Coralitos Springs, which is positioned just north of Interstate 40 in the Tijeras Canyon area. The second portion of the tour was located at the Tijeras Creek Remediation Project, which is located about two miles south of Coralitos Springs, where the Tijeras Creek meanders through an undeveloped area adjacent to two local public schools.

### Coralitos Springs

The Coralitos Springs property was acquired by Bernalillo County in 2000

and was opened to the public about two years ago following the construction of a parking lot and visitor information area, along with upgrading the condition and signage markings of the site's multiple trails. The Coralitos Springs area is occupied by one former house, a few storage buildings, and multiple out-buildings (cabins) that were originally built for leisure and recreation. Some of the cabins were built as early as 1894, and a select number of cabins are currently being restored. Due to the property's rugged terrain, sixty-nine (69) retaining walls were built during construction of access roads and paths, as well as to stabilize the site's hilly topography. There are also multiple spring-fed pools on the property, which help support an abundant collection of fruit trees (about 60).

In order to control vegetation overgrowth and improve the condition of on-site hiking trails, a number of areas had been trimmed and cut back, and much of the woody debris that was generated was placed over the former overgrown area. Great care was taken to re-position the woody material in order to minimize the impacts from storm water run-off, while also providing more room for trail maintenance.

### Tijeras Creek Remediation Project

After departing Coralitos Springs, the group drove a short distance to the nearby Tijeras Creek Remediation Project (TCRP). Mr. Brooks informed us regarding how compost and mulch are being used to manage storm water run-off and reduce erosion as Tijeras Creek carries storm water from the east flank of the Sandia Mountains to the South Valley and the Rio Grande. The TCRP is an active work site that is an excellent example of using earth-based solutions to solve storm water issues while establishing a healthy habitat for native plants and animals.

Mr. Brooks added that the materials used at the TCRP can also be used in a variety of settings ranging from slope stabilization and storm water management at solid waste and recycling facilities, as well as for personal landscaping and gardening projects. Furthermore, this method of erosion control utilizes wood chips and/or compost, two products that are generated from "waste" materials in New Mexico.

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## Highlights of the Joint NMRC/NM SWANA

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implemented many innovative solid waste ideas in Torrance County both at the Estancia Valley Regional Landfill and multiple collection centers. We congratulate Joseph on a well-deserved award and wish him a happy retirement.

In addition, the DeBaca County Solid Waste Facility received the Solid Waste Facility of the Year award for implementing an integrated solid waste management plan that included a new collection center, C&D landfill, and diversion program for recyclables. The Truth or Consequences Collection and Recycling Center received the Most Innovative Solid Waste Project award as the facility successfully managed the challenges after the closing of both the Sierra County and Truth or Consequences Landfills. The solid waste Employee of the Year was awarded to Kevin Apodaca of the Dona Ana County Code Division for his innovative approach of placing hidden cameras at illegal dumping sites to help catch illegal dumpers. Wednesday's conference activities continued with breakout sessions, exhibitor hours, a lunch panel discussion, with the conference closing at 2 PM. Don't miss the next one!!

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## Summary of October 13, 2016 Regional Roundtable Meeting in Socorro NM

by Charles Fiedler, P.E., LEED AP, Senior Project Director,  
Gordon Environmental/PSC

The NM Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA sponsored a Roundtable meeting in Socorro featuring Dr. Clint Richardson, PhD, PE, BCEE, Associate Professor in the Civil and the Environmental Engineering Department at New Mexico Tech, and Dr. Richardson lead a rousing discussion on “The Good, The Bad and The Ugly in Landfill Permitting.” He shared his experiences of providing engineering review for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Solid Waste Bureau (SWB). His insights sparked a lively discussion on topics ranging from landfill liners to soil erosion calculations in which participants at the Roundtable were able to discuss the numerous aspects of the technical requirements required in order to develop a landfill permit application. This discussion also identified the multiple challenges faced by an engineer in order to document in sufficient detail the required engineering demonstrations to support the technical elements of a permit application. Dr Richardson’s numerous years of experience with the peer review of solid waste permit applications were appreciated by all in attendance.

In addition, two recent presentations were shared with the attendees that highlighted issues are relevant to our industry. The first was a presentation on leachate management that was originally developed as an E-Training Session for SWANA by Erica Ortiz (NMED-Solid Waste Bureau) on Leachate Management in an Arid Climate. This presentation provided insights on the challenges faced in order to adequately manage and monitor leachate in a climate where leachate generation might be minimal (if any). The presentation also identified issues that should be routinely addressed with existing systems to ensure their continued function.

The second presentation provided an update on the Sandoval County Landfill Organic Evapotranspiration (ET) Final Cover demonstration project. This project included the installation of two lysimeters in 2016 to monitor the viability of a final cover system that relied on wood chips rather than vegetation to protect the final cover system, prevent infiltration and promote evapotranspiration. This is an ongoing project that was originally funded by a Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) Alliance Grant and is being continued as an operational component of the Sandoval County Landfill.

### NM SWANA Website Includes Updated List of Available Jobs

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

One of the many features on the Chapter’s website ([www.nmswana.com](http://www.nmswana.com)) is an updated Jobs category list that provides employment opportunities based on information provided to NM SWANA from several employers.

Please be sure to check out this feature – it may be helpful to you or someone you know.

## SWANA International Announces Three Major Conferences

SWANA is looking ahead to a world of possibilities in 2017 with the following upcoming events:



SWANA is looking to get REAL at SWANApalooza 2017, March 27–30 in Reno, Nevada. With REAL ISSUES, REAL INSPIRATION, REAL URGENCY for saving lives, and REAL LEARNING from industry leaders.



SWANA is looking forward to NAWTEC’s 25th Anniversary Celebration: Growing Up and Growing Strong (April 24–26, Minneapolis, Minnesota). One of SWANA’s premiere events, this focuses on recovering energy from municipal solid waste, which opens a world of possibilities to network with the most respected community of waste-to-energy professionals.



SWANA is looking ahead to September 25–27, 2017 when SWANA is pleased to host the International Solid Waste Association’s Annual World Congress in Baltimore, Maryland—USA! For the first time in almost two decades, thousands of international attendees will meet to explore the world of possibilities within solid waste and recycling while co-located with WASTECON®—North America’s premier event, combining efforts to offer the world’s largest industry gathering of its kind.

Additional information for each event is available via the NM SWANA Roadrunner Chapter website ([www.nmswana.com](http://www.nmswana.com)).

## Highlights of Annual & Regional Roundtable Meetings on December 9, 2016

by Charles Fiedler, P.E., LEED AP, Senior Project Director,  
Gordon Environmental/PSC

The NM Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (NM SWAMA) conducted their Annual Meeting on Friday December 9th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque with a record attendance of over 50 interested participants. Our focus this year has been on Safety and the presentations at the Annual Meeting reflected this focus starting off with an electrifying presentation by David Charlesworth, DC Environmental, on electrical safety. David provided a live demonstration that included dousing a hair dryer in water and observing the results. Our Keynote presentation was provided by Lisa Spahr, Cooperative

Program Manager with the NMED Occupational Safety Health and Safety Bureau, who highlighted SHARP (the Safety and Health Achievement Program). This is a voluntary program for New Mexico's smaller employers who are in high hazard industries like our solid waste and material management industries. This is a program that the South Central Solid Waste Authority participated in during 2016, and it was the first organization in our industry to become certified via the SHARP program.

The Annual Meeting also included a presentation by Randall Kippenbrock, P.E., Executive Director, Santa Fe Solid

Waste Management Agency ("Household Hazardous Waste [HHW]: Buckman Road Recycling, Transfer Station and HHW Collection Center"); an update on the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) by Marcia Pincus, SCS Engineers; and a Solid Waste Update on the State of Waste in New Mexico by Auralie Ashley-Marx, Bureau Chief, NMED-Solid Waste Bureau.

The meeting concluded with a rousing Roundtable discussion of solid waste issues facing facilities and operators in New Mexico. If you missed the Annual Meeting, the presentations are available on the NM SWANA website.

## March 7, 2017 E-Training Session Featured "Use of GPS to Improve Landfill Performance"

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

On March 7, 2017, the Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA (NM SWANA) held its first electronic training session (E-Session) of the year at the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Visitor Center. A total of five attendees viewed and listened to a previously recorded SWANA "webinar" prepared by John Carlton, P.E. and James Stenborg, P.E. of the firm Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. This E-Training Session was originally presented to a SWANA internet audience and recorded on May 28, 2014.

The E-Session highlighted information regarding the features, advantages and costs of using GPS technology to record construction and operations information at solid waste facilities. The presenters provided the background of GPS technology, including the use of up to 30 satellites to establish ground locations and elevations with great accuracy. Multiple of GPS devices were discussed, along with information about supporting hardware that is either required or desirable. For example, some GPS units can be equipped with a display screen that mounts near the equipment operator's windshield, and the screen can be programmed to show real-time information such as: cut/fill data; location(s) of recent equipment passes; slope of most recent equipment traverse; and changes in waste/cover soil density. The webinar presenters noted that GPS is just one of several tools that can be used to evaluate changes in compaction. While providing for an efficient option to record survey data, landfill owners/operators should still perform their own cost/benefit analysis to estimate how much time (e.g., months of landfill operation) will be required before the GPS system pays for itself (via avoided surveying costs).

E-Session attendees were also provided lunch, beverages, and a printed copy of the presentation slides.



## Road-E-O Competition Scheduled for May 6, 2017

by Randy Watkins, Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency

The 2017 NM SWANA Road-E-O competition will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Caja del Rio Landfill in Santa Fe. Contestants representing public and private waste collection agencies and solid waste facilities will be competing for top driving and operating honors in a friendly competition. Last year's event was well received and participants unanimously agreed that the Road-E-O should be held again this year. During the competition drivers and operators are required to maneuver a collection vehicle or landfill equipment through a pre-set course that will challenge their skills at starting and stopping the collection vehicle/landfill equipment, negotiating an obstacle course, and backing up the collection vehicle / landfill equipment while exhibiting general safe driving and operating skills. All collection vehicle / landfill equipment categories are judged on course accuracy and time.

The competition will have a total of four events. Each contestant may compete in up to two events from the vehicle collection and landfill equipment categories. The events in the collection vehicle category are: 1) front loader (2014 Auto Car Xpeditor) and 2) side loader (2016 Peterbilt 320). The events in the landfill equipment category are: 1) compactor (2007 Caterpillar 826H) and 2) dozer (1997 Caterpillar D8R).

Lunch will be served to the contestants, judges, and families. Trophies will be given to all first and second place winners of the competition. All winners are eligible to compete at the SWANA International Road-E-O event. The two overall winners from the collection vehicle and landfill equipment competitions will receive a stipend from the NM SWANA Chapter to help with expenses to attend the International Road-E-O. This year's International Road-E-O will be hosted by the Florida Sunshine Chapter from October 27-28, 2017. The competition will take place at the Orange County Landfill, south of Orlando in the Lake Buena Vista area.

The registration cost for the NM SWANA Road-E-O is \$30 for the first event and \$10 for the second event. The registration fee includes lunch for contestants, their spouses, and children. The deadline to register is April 28, 2017. More information regarding registration, hotel accommodations and sponsorship opportunities are available via the NM SWANA Chapter website ([www.nmswana.com](http://www.nmswana.com)).

### IMPORTANT 2017 NM SWANA ROADRUNNER CHAPTER DATES

**April 18, 2017**  
Regional Roundtable – Southern NM

Watch for upcoming  
registration details



**May 6, 2017**  
2017 Road-E-O  
Caja del Rio Landfill in Santa Fe

Watch for upcoming  
registration details



**June 6-8, 2017**  
Transfer Station Operator  
Certification Training  
Rio Grande Room, Toney Anaya Bldg.  
2550 Cerillos Rd, Santa Fe  
[nmswana.com/swana\\_training.htm](http://nmswana.com/swana_training.htm)

**August 1, 2017**  
eTraining Session

Watch for upcoming  
registration details



**August 22-24, 2017**  
Collection Center Course  
Albuquerque Fire Academy  
[nmswana.com/swana\\_training.htm](http://nmswana.com/swana_training.htm)



**September 19-22, 2017**  
Landfill Operator  
Certification Training  
Eastern NMU,  
52 University Blvd., Roswell  
[nmswana.com/swana\\_training.htm](http://nmswana.com/swana_training.htm)

**October 17, 2017**  
Regional Roundtable – Santa Fe

Watch for upcoming  
registration details



**November 13-16, 2017**  
Transfer Station Operator  
Certification Training Eastern NMU  
709 Mechem Dr., Ruidoso  
[nmswana.com/swana\\_training.htm](http://nmswana.com/swana_training.htm)



**December 8, 2017**  
Annual Meeting &  
Regional Roundtable  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Albuquerque