

# Let's Talk Trash

November 2017 Edition

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## Andy Miller—A Well-Traveled Professional

by Jack Chappelle, Engineering Solutions & Design, Inc.

I have been interviewing people for the New Mexico SWANA newsletter since the late 1990's and Andy Miller is the first person I have interviewed who was born and raised on Long Island, New York. Andy has served as manager of the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority since mid-2016. In this position, he is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste, recycling of materials, composting of organic materials, and all other activities relating to solid waste in Torrance County and surrounding areas.



Andy attended elementary school, middle school, and high school on the north shore of Long Island. His father was a hydrogeologist and owned his own company, where Andy worked during vacations and summer breaks from middle school, high school, and college. He worked on drill rigs and conducted field analyses of stream flow and stream deposits. These experiences inspired Andy's interest in hydrology and in particular, hydrogeology.

Andy's strong interest in hydrogeology led him to Colby College in Maine where he studied biology and geology, the University of Waterloo in Canada, and Oklahoma State University. Upon graduation from Oklahoma State University, where he received a master's degree in geology, Andy moved to Florida to work with the South Florida Water Management District. During his tenure at the district, Andy provided hydrogeologic analyses of the various aquifers and made recommendations

regarding water use permits. From there, Andy moved his talents to a couple of different consulting firms that provided more opportunities throughout Florida and neighboring states, including soil and groundwater contamination cleanup at various sites, including landfills.

His experiences in the geology and hydrogeology arena steered Andy to New Mexico where he worked with a consulting firm conducting a variety of studies for the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, and a number of industrial clients. He spent a number of years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he led a number of study teams performing investigation and cleanup of groundwater contamination and stormwater controls.

After a variety of project experiences at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Andy returned to the east coast where he was

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## South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) Receives Award from the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

The South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) was honored by the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) as an award recipient at the NRC's 2017 Resource Recycling Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The Conference was sponsored by both the NRC and the Recycling Association of Minnesota. The SCSWA was recognized as the 2017 Outstanding Community or Government Program. City Councilor and SCSWA Board Chair Olga Pedroza accepted the award on behalf of the Authority. When accepting the award, Ms. Pedroza mentioned the great attitude shown by Authority staff, the diligent work practices of Authority employees, and the ability of Authority staff to convert citizen's requests into sustainable programs.

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## Andy Miller—A Well-Traveled Professional continued from page 1

charged with developing drinking water supplies, addressing wastewater issues, and investigating landfill contamination. The majority of work was performed for small and large communities on Cape Cod and in Florida. Some of the larger projects involved drilling and testing wells up to 3,500 feet deep with flow rates in excess of 2,000 gallons per minute.

The combination of too many winters in New England and a desire to return to the southwest spurred Andy's 2016 return to New Mexico. It was at this time that Andy considered the potential of working in the solid waste industry. Andy applied for the manager's position at the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, which opened when Joseph Ellis retired. The authority selected Andy to serve as its new manager and in mid-2016 Andy assumed his role. Since taking over as manager, Andy has strived to identify options for the authority to continue to be one of the premier solid waste agencies in New

Mexico. These options have included identifying unique methods for financing future cell development as well as handling septage waste. Andy has been a member of SWANA for more than 18 months and has taken full advantage of SWANA's training courses. During that short time, he has completed the MOLO training and passed the exam; and he completed training and received NMED certificates for Solid Waste Facility operator, and also managing recycling, composting, and transfer station operation. Andy is active in other industry associations in addition to SWANA and a paper he recently prepared was accepted for presentation at WasteExpo 2018.

Andy is an energetic and enthusiastic solid waste professional who wants to provide exceptional solid waste services to the members of the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority. His knowledge and breadth of experience provides him the motivation to achieve these goals.

## Highlights of August 1, 2017 E-Session Training Event by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

The New Mexico Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA held an electronic training session on August 1, 2017. The E-Session was titled, *Transforming a Landfill into a Model of Sustainability*, featuring multiple diversion activities being implemented at the Pitkin County Landfill in Colorado (the E-Session was originally presented to a SWANA internet audience and recorded on May 20, 2015). Attendees at the training event viewed and listened to the presented material, and discussed the information further in the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Visitor Center meeting room.

Ms. Cathleen Hall, S.C., Pitkin County's Solid Waste Manager described the landfill's very successful diversion

program, which has resulted in diverting nearly 60% of incoming materials. After determining the loads requiring disposal, the remaining materials are sorted and processed for either recycling or reuse, with some of the resulting products being made available for sale (e.g., compost, top soil and aggregate product, latex paint).

A large portion of incoming materials consist of construction and demolition (C & D) debris, of which 80% is crushed at the landfill and used for alternate daily cover (ADC). On-site use of this processed material on a regular basis helps preserve valuable air space, thereby extending the landfill's operating life. The landfill also operates a very successful

composting program, which generates revenue for the site. With funding provided by a state grant, the site purchased a bagging machine so that compost generated on-site could be packaged and easily sold to local vendors. The landfill also operates a household hazardous waste (HHW) program, which is promoted by providing each county resident with a \$100 credit coupon for taking their HHW to the landfill (the landfill then arranges for off-site processing/disposal).

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

# What's Going on at SWANA?

by Danita Boettner, P.E.,

Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency

## TRANSITIONS

SWANA is pleased and saddened to report that Kathy Hobbs will be retiring from SWANA at the end of the year. Kathy has been with SWANA for more than 27 years, and has played a very important role interacting with the International Board (IB) and Executive Committee as Associate Director, as well as supporting a variety of efforts including certification and the SWANA history project. Kathy will be honored at SWANA's December 13th holiday event and her last day in the office will be December 29th. Please join us and all of the SWANA staff in wishing her well.

Also, Wendy Melis, SWANA's Marketing Director, will be leaving us in November. Wendy has worked at SWANA for more than 5 years, has played a critical role in growing SWANA's brand and visibility, and has been a tireless worker at events such as WASTECON. She is relocating to Virginia to take care of her mother, and we wish her the best.

## MEMBERSHIP

We have some good news to report: SWANA has gone over the 9,500 member threshold, and now has more than 1,000 (!) Young Professionals (YPs). The extraordinary growth of our YP group is a testament to the vision and leadership of the IB which established this new category, and the terrific hard work and energy by many YPs, in many chapters, and at the national level, to create a meaningful YP program and presence within SWANA.

## CHINA/RECYCLING

As you are likely aware, China's restrictions on imported waste/recyclables is taking up an increasing amount of the IB's time.

On October 26, 2017, David Biderman (SWANA Executive Director and CEO) spoke during an EPA webinar on this topic that had 1,000 participants, and the following day, spoke about it, along with EPA, at the annual Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) meeting. SWANA continues to play an important role coordinating information flow to the three federal government agencies working on this issue – Department of Commerce, USTR, and EPA – and expects this to continue into November. Keep an eye out for further developments as China may be loosening their fiber contamination rates (from 0.3 to 1%) in the near future.

## SWANAPALOOZA

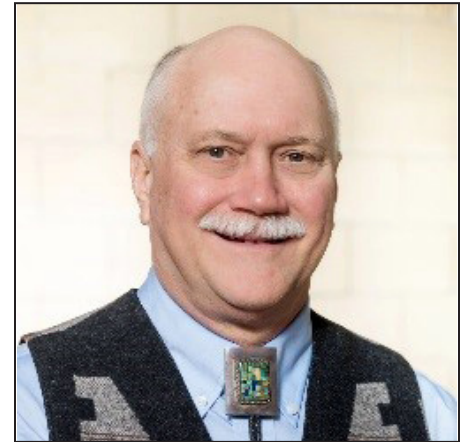
Staff is hard at work developing the SWANApalooza program and schedule, in conjunction with the Technical Divisions, and registration is available at <https://swana.org/Events/SWANApalooza.aspx>. SWANApalooza is the brand name for four SWANA events combined into one location to provide a significant learning experience, saving you time and travel to multiple events. SWANApalooza features the Annual Landfill Gas and Biogas Symposium, the Annual Landfill Symposium, and the Road to Zero Waste Conference, along with the Spring Training & Exam Center. Formerly a separate event, the U.S. EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) is now a partner in the Landfill Gas and Biogas Symposium.

SWANA is very excited about being in Denver in March (will it snow, or will it be 70 degrees?), and look forward to seeing many of you there.

## PSC Announces Promotion of Charles Fiedler, P.E.

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

**P**arkhill, Smith & Cooper (PSC) is pleased to announce the promotion of Charles Fiedler, P.E., LEED AP, from its Gordon Environmental/PSC Albuquerque (Bernalillo) office into an Associate position. A total of 17 professionals were promoted throughout the firm, recognizing their commitment to serving clients throughout the nine PSC offices across Texas and New Mexico.



“This group really represents what we try to accomplish as a company in building community with our clients and becoming that trusted advisor to them,” said Joe Rapier, President and CEO of PSC. “We look forward to watching them continue to grow as leaders in their professions and their communities.”

Mr. Fiedler is a Civil Engineer in PSC's Public Works Sector in the firm's Albuquerque (Bernalillo) office. His focus is in solid waste management, waste minimization and recycling. Charles has over 39 years of experience and is a nationally recognized expert in landfill construction and landfill gas systems design. Mr. Fiedler is also the current President of the New Mexico Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (NM SWANA).

## **SWANA International Board President Richard Allen to be Keynote Speaker at NM Chapter's Annual Meeting on December 8, 2017**

**by Randy Watkins, Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station Manager**

**T**he NM Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA is pleased to announce that Richard Allen, SWANA's International Board President, has agreed to be the Keynote Speaker at its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 8, 2017 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque, NM. All SWANA members and the public are invited to attend this meeting. A formal meeting announcement and registration are available from NM SWANA's home web page at [www.nmswana.com](http://www.nmswana.com).

Professionally, Mr. Allen has been very active with SWANA, having taught multiple training courses and judging Road-E-O equipment competitions. Rich has also attended nearly every International Road-E-O event for the past twenty-two years. Mr. Allen will discuss current topics regarding SWANA International and landfill technology.

The Chapter's Annual Meeting will also feature presentations from other professionals in the solid waste/materials management industry. These professionals include: Auralie Ashley-Marx (regarding the 2017 Solid Waste Management Plan); Derek Bohannon (re: drone services), Danita Boettner (re: GPS and Landfill Compaction); Steevie Bereiter (re: DriveCam); and Charles Fiedler (re: updates to NM SWANA's Strategic Plan).

Shortly after the Annual Meeting, the Chapter will host an informational Roundtable meeting. This meeting is a moderated forum for exchanging information, sharing industry trends, and asking questions. All Annual Meeting attendees are invited to attend the Roundtable meeting.

### **NM SWANA ROADRUNNER CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR NOMINATIONS FOR 2018-2019**

**The following have committed to serving the NM SWANA Roadrunner Chapter for the next two years if elected by the membership. The results of the election will be announced at the Chapter's Annual Meeting on December 8, 2017. [Click here to download ballot.](#)**

#### **Randal Watkins—President**

Randy is employed by the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency as Manager at the Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station. He has served the Chapter as Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **Charles Fiedler—Past-President**

Charles is currently a Senior Project Director with Gordon Environmental, Inc. of Bernalillo, NM where he leads a staff of engineers and technicians solving solid waste challenges across New Mexico and the Southwest. He has served the Chapter as President for the last two years and as Treasurer and Vice-President prior to that.

#### **Stephen Miceli—Vice-President**

Steve is Waste Management of NM's Landfill District Manager for the New Mexico area and manages operations at Rio Rancho Landfill, Valencia Regional Landfill and Recycling Facility, and San Juan County Regional Landfill. He has served the Chapter as Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **Shirlene Sitton—Treasurer**

Shirlene is the City of Santa Fe Environmental Services Division Director and has been a SWANA member for 15 years. She has been active in WASTECON as well as Road-E-O competitions in Texas and here in New Mexico.

#### **Douglas Shimic—Secretary**

Doug is the Manager of Waste Management of NM Landfill Operations for the Albuquerque area as well as the Rio Rancho Landfill and the Belen Convenience Center.

#### **David Robinson—International Board Representative**

Dave is with the City of Albuquerque's Solid Waste Management Department. He has served on the NM SWANA Board since 2008 as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President and Past-President.

#### **Terry Nelson—Education Committee Chair**

Terry is currently retired from the New Mexico Environmental

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# October 17, 2017 Regional Roundtable Meeting

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

The NM Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA hosted a Regional Roundtable Meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at the Nancy Rodriguez Center in Santa Fe. Twenty-seven (27) people attended this Meeting, which consisted of presentations, a question and answer period, lunch, and an interactive discussion among the attendees.

The speakers were Mr. Eric Lucero of the City of Santa Fe's Environmental Services Division, and Mr. Terry Watkins of Rubicon Global, who gave a presentation entitled, *Increasing Solid Waste Collection and Diversion Efficiency Using Technology*. Rubicon Global is partnering with the City of Santa Fe to beta test their waste collection application.

The primary objective of the Rubicon Global application is to improve the tracking, accuracy and efficiency of the City's weekly refuse and recyclable material collection programs. This is being accomplished by equipping the collection vehicles with smart phones that feature the Rubicon Application (app). This is a cloud-based information system that features a website dashboard management support center, enabling staff to review data in

real-time, and provide support to both driver and customers. Customer information is pre-loaded by route, and as the collection vehicles pick up materials, a GPS generated "bread-crumbs-trail" is created, showing the location and time the truck was present, both through the app and on the dashboard in the management support center.

The efficient exchange of information between the vehicles and support center allows the City to take immediate action in case a vehicle breaks down, or a situation arises that requires a prompt response. Since collections are verified by GPS through the app, and issues can be photographed by the collection vehicle driver, the possibility of a "missed pick-up" can be quickly resolved by reviewing the bread-crumbs-trail of the truck along the route verifying whether a resident had actually placed the material to be collected at the curb by the required pick-up time.

In addition, if the resident's cart was blocked, overflowing, or contained unacceptable materials, this information can also be noted and recorded by the driver. This information has greatly increased the efficiency and driver morale in the City of Santa Fe.

## South Central Solid Waste Authority (SCSWA) Receives Award from the National Recycling Coalition (NRC)

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The SCSWA was recognized by NRC for continuing to set a strong example for recycling excellence by implementing new programs, adding services, educating residents, focusing on schools and being a leader and role model in the state of New Mexico. Highlights of SCSWA's accomplishments include:

- Establishing a glass recycling program, which creates a product that is beneficially used by the community, as well as providing raw materials for local sand-blasting businesses
- Launching a community tire shredding program that diverts many used tires for beneficial applications, including use at a local airfield
- Partnering with Dona Ana County staff to end illegal dumping in Dona Ana County
- Hosting dozens of community litter clean-ups and expanding school program services to include all three school districts in the County

## OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR NOMINATIONS FOR 2018-2019

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**Department (NMED) and does part-time consulting on solid waste issues in New Mexico as Nelson Solid Waste Consulting, LLC. He has served as President and Treasurer, Vice-President, President and Past-President and Chair of the NM SWANA Board since 2014.**

### **Jerry Kamieniecki—Communication Committee Chair**

**Jerry has been a member of the NM SWANA Chapter since 1998 and is retired from Gordon Environmental, Inc. He has served as President of the NM SWANA Chapter and has been the Chapter's Communications Chair for the past eight years.**

### **Marcia Pincus—Membership Committee Chair**

**Marcia is a registered professional engineer in New Mexico and as a member of SWANA has held the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President of the SWANA NM Roadrunner Chapter as well as the SWANA International Board Representative from the NM Chapter. She has been involved with the NM SWANA Chapter as a member and officer for over 10 years.**