

Let's Talk Trash

April 2018 Edition

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Douglas Shimic: from Farm Boy to Landfill Manager

by Jack Chappelle, Engineering Solutions & Design, Inc.

It was a pleasure meeting Douglas Shimic and talking with him about his life's experiences. As a native of Wyoming, he spent his childhood on a farm outside of Hawk Springs, Wyoming, which is only 30 miles south of Torrington, Wyoming. His early experiences on the farm and out in the Wyoming countryside were instrumental in developing his respect and enjoyment of nature and the environment.



Upon graduation from high school, Douglas entered the military where he served his country for 22 years. As a member of the National Guard, he was also afforded time to work for the City of Torrington. He began as an equipment operator for the Streets and Sanitation Department.

After 10 years with the Streets and Sanitation Department, Douglas moved to Belle Fourche, South Dakota (which, if you do not know, is just outside Spearfish, South Dakota). In Belle Fourche, Douglas served as Public Works Director and in this position, he was responsible for all activities relating to solid waste.

After two years in Belle Fourche, Douglas elected to return to Wyoming and was hired as the landfill manager for the Johnson County Solid Waste District. Johnson County is tucked away between rolling plains to the east and the towering peaks of the Bighorn Mountains to the west. Information from Johnson County's website states: "Johnson County is a place

of legend and living history surrounded by one of the last best unspoiled places in the American West. It is where you can experience both the beauty of the Bighorn Mountain wilderness and the history of the Western frontier." I offer this description of Johnson County to accentuate the area's uniqueness and the exceptional opportunity Douglas was offered.

During his time as landfill manager for the Johnson County Solid Waste District, Douglas learned the new solid waste regulations promulgated by the State of Wyoming. He also worked with communities in the county educating community officials on aspects of the new regulatory requirements. During his tenure as landfill manager, Douglas helped supervise the installation of a new liner and leachate collection system. Over time, his responsibilities expanded to include managing a composting program as well as recovering metals from the waste stream.

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What's Going on at SWANA?

by Danita Boettner, P.E.,
Santa Fe Solid Waste
Management Agency

RECYCLING UPDATE

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.

In addition, insert David Biderman, SWANA Executive Director and CEO has spoken with EPA officials and Canada's representatives to the World Trade Organization (WTO) about recent recycling developments affecting the industry. Finally, in late March 2018, David spoke about these issues at the Southern New England SWANA chapter's Annual Conference, which was also a terrific opportunity to get attendees excited about the 2019 SWANApalooza conference in Boston.

SWANA's Recycling Task Force will be holding a conference call this month to discuss best practices for reducing contamination of recycled materials; how to increase demand for products with recycled content; and securing federal support for recycling programs in the country.

WASTECON 2018 Update

SWANA is pleased to report that both the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

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Douglas Shimic

(continued from page 1)

Douglas noted that one of the most challenging facets of his time with the Johnson County Solid Waste District was working with the five-member board. As with many boards that have more than one member, it can be difficult to obtain a consensus. Although this presented challenges, Douglas was able to work with the board to improve working conditions for the solid waste district staff while adding services offered by the landfill.

After his adventures in Wyoming and South Dakota, Douglas decided to move on to new challenges in New Mexico. Douglas finds the temperate climate here more pleasant when beginning his day's activities and he enjoys wearing fewer clothing layers compared to what was necessary when living up north.

At present, Douglas is the Operations Manager for Waste Management's Rio Rancho and Valencia County solid waste operations. He has been a SWANA member on and off for more than 10 years. He has been active with the New Mexico SWANA Roadrunner Chapter since arriving in New Mexico in 2017 and currently serves as Secretary on the chapter's board.

Douglas finds the board members well educated and highly motivated to make the Roadrunner Chapter great. He brings a new perspective to the chapter and is excited about the opportunity to work with the board and the membership to improve solid waste management in New Mexico.

What's Going on at SWANA?

(continued from same page, column one)

(ISRI) and SWANA have agreed to hold a joint "MRF Summit" at WASTECON in Nashville, TN (from August 20-23, 2018) This is an exciting addition to the WASTECON schedule on a topic that connects recycling with overall materials management This is also a subject that many in the waste sector are discussing, and organizers of this Summit expect it to attract new attendees and exhibitors to Nashville. Registration for WASTECON will open later this month!

NAWTEC – May 14-16, 2018

SWANA is busy finalizing the details for the North American Waste-to-Energy Conference (NAWTEC), which is scheduled for May 14-16, 2018 in beautiful Lancaster, Pennsylvania. To register, click on the NAWTEC link above. SWANA hopes that you and others will attend.

HICKMAN Endowment and Internship Program

The Texas Lone Star chapter has joined the California Gold Rush, Mid-Atlantic, and New Jersey chapters as Sustaining Chapter Donors to the SWANA Hickman Endowment and Internship Program. Established in 1996, the Hickman Endowment Program supports three SWANA initiatives that focus on drawing students into the solid waste management field as young professionals (note: the three programs are the Hickman Internship Program; the SWANA International Solid Waste Design Competition [SWDC] program; and an industry-affiliated Research Project program). SWANA encourages other chapters and companies to support these important initiatives.

Highlights of December 2017 Annual & Regional Roundtable Meetings

by Randy Watkins, Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency

The NM Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (NM SWANA) conducted its Annual Meeting on Friday December 8th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque with an attendance of approximately 50 people. The theme of the meeting was the use of technology in the management of solid waste, and the presentations at the Meeting reflected this theme, beginning with Ms. Danita Boettner of the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency. Ms. Boettner's presentation described the use of GPS technology to measure and improve efforts to maximize landfill compaction. Danita noted that existing technology can be readily installed on landfill compaction equipment, and this technology can be programmed to calculate in-place waste density; plot this data on a scaled site plan; and display the information on a monitor easily viewed by the equipment operator. The colored mapping of waste density data shows locations that have received sufficient compaction. In addition, the equipment software can be programmed to calculate in-place waste density; plot this data on a scaled site plan, and display the information on a monitor easily viewed by the equipment operator.

Charles Fiedler, Senior Project Director & Associate with Gordon Environmental/

PSC, then gave an uplifting presentation on the use of drones at landfills. Drones are commonly used to photograph site conditions, record elevations, and track the amount of waste settlement over time. Mr. Fiedler's discussion was followed by a presentation by Mr. Gabe Hernandez, Waste Management (WM) District Fleet Manager, who spoke about DriveCam Video Technology and its on-going use with WM's collection vehicles. DriveCam Video Technology features a camera positioned in the driver's cab that records continuous traffic conditions. The camera can be programmed to record vehicle operating data including speed, lateral acceleration and braking force. Recorded video information allows certain "events" (e.g., near-misses) to be reviewed for further analysis, thereby improving employee behavior and enhancing the company's overall safety culture.

The Keynote Presentation was provided by Mr. Rich Allen, President of SWANA and CEO of the Salt River Landfill in Scottsdale, AZ. Mr. Allen described how SWANA is fine-tuning certain methods on how new technologies are evaluated. For example, more emphasis is being given to topics such as determining the pay-back period for a specific purchase, as well as assessing

an item's life-cycle cost. Mr. Allen added that SWANA's membership continues to grow, especially with the popular Young Professionals (YP) program. In addition, SWANA remains active by providing public comment on a variety of waste, recycling and regulatory issues. Marcia Pincus, SCS Engineers, provided an update on the Clean Air Act's New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) that include new 40 CFR 60 Subpart XXX regulations, Emission Guideline (EG) Rules, and New Mexico's State Plan for implementing the EG. George Schuman, Permit Section Manager of NMED's Solid Waste Bureau, gave an update on the activities of the Outreach, Enforcement and Permit Sections. Mr. Schuman also provided information regarding the closure of unlined landfills, and the end of post-closure care periods for closed landfills.

Immediately after the Annual Meeting, an informal Roundtable discussion was held. Discussion topics included solid waste issues and challenges facing facilities and operators in New Mexico. If you missed the Annual Meeting, the presentations are available via the NM SWANA website (www.nmswana.com).

NM SWANA & NMRC to Host Joint Conference in September 2018

by Charles W. Fiedler P.E., LEED AP, Gordon Environmental/PSC

The biennial New Mexico Recycling & Solid Waste Conference will take place on September 24-26, 2018 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown. The theme for this year's conference is "Local Actions for Global Markets." The conference is being jointly hosted by the New Mexico SWANA Roadrunner Chapter the New Mexico Recycling Coalition.

Tours and pre-conference events will begin on September 24. Formal conference activities (starting September 25 and 26) include multiple events, such as: keynote speakers, plenary sessions, breakout discussions, roundtable discussions, an exhibitor's hall, networking parties, and a presentation of Recycling and Solid Waste awards

Join 200 or more of your recycling and solid waste peers at this premier event by signing up today (and clicking [HERE!](#))

March 6, 2018 E-Session Training Summary

by Jerry Kamieniecki, Consultant

The New Mexico Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA (NM SWANA) held an electronic training session on March 6, 2018 at the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Visitor Center. The E-Session was titled "Ten Things You Should do to Improve Worker Safety in 2015." The presentation was given by SWANA CEO and Executive Director David Biderman, based on a previous presentation he gave to a live internet audience on June 6, 2016. Attendees at this training event viewed and listened to Mr. Biderman's recorded presentation and discussed the information further after the presentation concluded. Attendees at the E-Session were also provided lunch, beverages, and a printed copy of the presentation slides.

David highlighted many health and safety challenges faced by today's solid waste workers, but he focused specifically on the hazards faced by drivers of collection vehicles. He also emphasized the proactive safety culture being established by many companies in the solid waste field.

Based on reported accident information compiled in 2015, the United States federal government identified that workers performing solid waste collection have the fifth-highest fatality rate in the country (the occupation with the highest fatality rate: logging) For workers performing these duties, the most frequent vehicle accident types include: (1) vehicle backing incidents, (2) rear-end collisions, and (3) hitting a fixed object.

Over the course of his presentation, Mr. Biderman commented on the ten most important things that each of us can do to improve our own safety and the safety of our co-workers His discussion emphasized the following topics:

1. **Engage Your Drivers and Other Front-Line Workers**

Be sure to communicate with your employees that most accidents and injuries are caused by unsafe behavior Make workplace safety a personal goal for your workers, and use photos, posters and videos to reach your employees

2. **Review Your Safety Data**

When reviewing your safety data, keep these questions in mind:

- What are the most common injuries and accidents?
- What are the most costly injuries and accidents?
- Are there more accidents on certain days and/or times?

3. **Perform Route Observation**

Observation of an operating collection vehicle by someone other than the driver or helper can help determine if the collection crew driver and helper are working safely and complying with applicable requirements Also, route observation can help assess if appropriate behaviors and procedures are being followed (e.g., use of seat belts, backing procedures, vehicle speed, use of turn signals, etc.).

4. **Use Safety Monday and Other Communication Tools**

To make safety information available and convenient, use SWANA's e-mailed publication Safety Monday (free to SWANA members) as part of your safety meetings and briefings. Safety meetings are also an excellent time to recognize good employee behavior.

5. **Use Safety Belts**

If a truck overturns, a safety belt can save the driver's and helper's life!

6. **Enforce Your Distracted Driving Policy**

Review your Distracted Driving

Policy (e.g., cell phone use, texting, food & beverage consumption, etc.) and update the requirements as appropriate.

7. **Focus on Backing and Rear-End Collisions**

These are the two most common accidents for solid waste collection vehicles. Rushing is often a contributing factor. Why are we rushing? Is the driver using his helper, mirror or camera when backing up?

8. **Focus on Lifting and Slips/Trips/Falls**

Injuries from these activities are very common for solid waste workers. Consider providing lifting training (for new hires and refresher training for older workers). Accidents involving workers that fall on the job are commonly traced to the type of footwear being worn. Is the footwear appropriate for the activity? Does footwear need to be adjusted for working in inclement weather?

9. **Use PPE—The Last Line of Defense**

Because solid waste workers face a wide variety of hazards, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential to prevent injuries. For example, make sure workers are wearing high visibility clothing. In addition, employees should be observed while working to ensure they are using the appropriate PPE (e.g., shoes, gloves, hard hats, safety glasses, etc.).

10. **Attend the WASTECON Safety Summit in Nashville, TN on August 20-23, 2018**

Mr. Biderman also commented on the increasing use of technology to improve worker safety. For example, technology-based systems have been used to help employers monitor the behavior of

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Biological Hazards from Creepy Crawlers (Especially Insects and Spiders)

by Marcia Pincus, SCS Field Services

This newsletter's health and safety topic is devoted to summer's creepy crawlers—insects and spiders—and strategies to prevent bites from these critters.

Mosquitoes

As we all know living in New Mexico, mosquito bites can potentially transmit West Nile Virus. Most people who contract West Nile have no symptoms, or their symptoms are so mild that they may not even realize that they have the virus. In rare cases, West Nile virus can lead to swelling of the brain (encephalitis), swelling of the spinal cord (myelitis), or swelling of the tissues around the brain and spinal cord (meningitis). West Nile virus can be fatal.

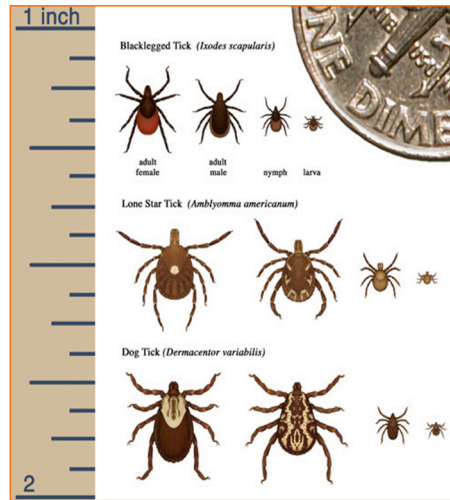
Products that can be used as an insect repellent include DEET, which is widely recognized as the most effective repellent. Alternatives are Eucalyptus and Citronella products. Icaridin, also known as picaridin, Bayrepel, and KBR 3023 can also be used. To protect yourself from being bitten, it is best to wear light-colored, smooth-finished clothes that cover your body, such as long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Also, it helps if long-sleeved shirts are completely buttoned and long pants are tucked into boots. In addition, perfumed lotions, aftershave, or scented hair products should not be used during the warmer months.

Ticks

Ticks attach themselves to warm-blooded animals and extract blood from the host. Ticks (examples shown below) can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. Typical symptoms of being poisoned by a tick include:

- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever fever, headache, and chills, experienced a few days after being bitten.

- Lyme Disease—red rash around the point of entry and/or flu-like ailments.



To minimize the chance of being bitten by a tick, it is best to wear clothing that covers the skin and fits snugly around the wrists, ankles, and waist. Also, it is best to use tick repellents (DEET) when working in areas known or suspected of containing ticks. Apply tick repellent to clothing, concentrating on areas most accessible to ticks (e.g., shoe tops, socks, and pant cuffs). When you return home from locations where ticks might have been present, carefully examine your skin and scalp for ticks.

If you do find a tick on you (or a co-worker), carefully remove it from your skin as soon as you notice it. Use fine-tipped tweezers to firmly grasp the tick very close to your skin. With a steady motion, pull the tick's body away from your skin. Then clean your skin with soap and warm water. Try to avoid crushing the tick's body. Do not be alarmed if the tick's mouth parts remain in the skin. Once the mouth parts are removed from the remainder of the tick, Lyme

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March 6, 2018 E-Session Training Summary

(continued from page 4)

their drivers, and to keep their workers safe. Examples of these systems include: dashboard cameras; collision avoidance systems (to include sensors/ultrasound/radar/RFID components); rear, and side cameras. Employers using these systems have reported a reduction in bad behaviors and accidents.

Other safety issued to keep in mind

- Pre-trip inspections
- Driver fitness: drugs/alcohol, weight/sleep
- Lockout/Tagout
- Overhead hazards
- Trains
- Pinch points
- Fires/Natural gas trucks
- During disposal: spacing of trucks, swinging doors, scavenging, open tailgates
- Wellness programs (obesity/smoking)
- Workers comp
- Back to work/light duty programs: days away from work (DAFW) in public sector are 60% higher than private sector
- Summer: heat issues – recognizing symptoms

Some Closing Thoughts

1. Solid waste employees have high injury and fatality rates, and our trucks are involved in too many fatal accidents.
2. Successful employers are engaging their employees and getting them to change their unsafe behaviors; renewed focus is on maintaining a Positive Safety Culture.
3. SWANA is enhancing and expanding the safety resources it provides to members to help local governments and others improve their safety performance.

SAVE THESE DATES

JUNE 5-7, 2018

TRANSFER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COURSE

MORIARTY, NM

[Click to Register](#)

2018 ROAD-E-O—JUNE 16, 2018

CAJA DEL RIO LANDFILL IN SANTA FE, NM

(Watch for Registration Details)

September 11-14, 2018

LANDFILL OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COURSE

CARLSBAD, NM

[Click to Register](#)

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2018

NM SWANA AND NMRC JOINT CONFERENCE

ALBUQUERQUE MARRIOTT HOTEL

[Click to Register](#)

OCTOBER 16, 2018

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

LOCATION TBD

(Watch for Registration Details)

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2018

TRANSFER OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COURSE

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NM

[Click to Register](#)

DECEMBER 7, 2018

ANNUAL MEETING & ROUNDTABLE MEETING

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

(Watch for Registration Details)

Biological Hazards (continued from page 5)

disease cannot be transmitted. Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish, or other products to remove a tick.

Wasps

The following are recommended first aid procedures for bee or wasp stings. First, remove the stinger by scraping it out with the edge of a rigid card (i.e., driver's license or similar) Do not squeeze the stinger. Do not use tweezers to grasp the stinger to remove it, as this may inject more poison. Cover the wound, apply a cold pack, and watch for allergic reactions. Seek immediate medical attention if an allergic reaction occurs.



Brown Recluse Spiders

These brown spiders are approximately 1 to 2 inches in size (see illustration above). They have long legs and a distinctive dark brown fiddle-shaped marking on the underside. Brown recluse spiders produce a dangerous necrotizing (tissue damaging) agent.

What's the difference between a Brown Recluse and a Black Widow bite? The Brown Recluse bite leaves a large open sore after it has bitten its victim. The Black widow bite will cause internal pain not visible to the naked eye. If bitten, try to (safely) identify the spider so that medical personnel can determine the appropriate remedy. If you are bitten by a spider, DO NOT:

- Apply heat (heat accelerates tissue destruction)
- Apply hydrocortisone cream or other steroids
- Try to remove the venom with cuts or suction devices
- Apply a tourniquet