



Wisconsin Geothermal Association

Spring 2016

President's Message

If you were expecting a long message from the president followed by a short newsletter, I'm afraid that you're going to be disappointed....

My comments are brief because the articles below tell the real story. We're coming off of our conference. We've introduced our inaugural class of Master Installers. We're working right now with the State of Wisconsin on a program to highlight geothermal and increase its use in our State. We've had our first experience providing continuing education to heat exchange drillers.

And we've got a lot going on in the next few months too, with a GEO Ride and a Golf Outing and the beginning of the planning for our 2017 Annual Conference. There's some exciting stuff happening!

What I want to do mostly in my few remarks here is to encourage you to read and encourage you to become more involved. We are, more than ever, doing the work that it takes to advance our industry. Yes, there are challenges, but I know what happens if we do nothing, and that's nothing.

Our industry deserves our best effort. The investment of your time, talent, and yes, your treasure, is the fuel that runs our association. Through you, and working together, we can accomplish much. I know that because we are doing that.

Read on, and you'll see....

Dan Waldorf
WGA President
Advanced Custom Geothermal
Kiel, Wisconsin



WGA Annual Conference

Another Successful Event!

The WGA held its Annual Conference at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference in Stevens Point, February 24-25, 2016. Attendance was up this year, with interest in the Master Installer program, continuing education for heat exchange drillers, and a desire for updates about the status of tax credits cited as some of the reasons why first-time attendees joined us.

Over the two days of the Annual Conference, we heard from two keynotes - Steve Smith, speaking as Chairman of the of the Geothermal Exchange Organization and CEO of Enertech, and Dave Ross, Secretary of the Department of Safety & Professional Services. In addition, 12 breakout sessions were presented, with tracks for heat exchange drillers and loop field installers, business management, and new ideas and technical advancements in the geothermal industry.

Attendees told us that they were interested in education, networking, and vendor interactions and we delivered the goods, with nearly every participant rating the Annual Conference as "excellent" or "good." We'll build off of this year's success with some of the ideas provided by participants, including more business-related sessions, more about installation practices, and more ideas about using geothermal systems for a wide variety of applications.

Thank you to our event sponsors!

GOLD Level

EarthLinked Technologies
Enertech
QEnergy
WaterFurnace

SILVER Level

B & D Manufacturing
Drillworx
Flow Center Products
Hydro-Flo Products
MBA
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TSI - Temperature Systems, Inc.
ThermLink

WGA Elects Directors/Officers at Annual Conference

Congratulations to the following individuals who were reelected to position on the WGA Board of

Directors (2016-2019):

Mark Flock - Flock's Heating & A/C
Dave Mitchell - Mitchell's Heating
Dan Walsdorf - Advanced Custom Geothermal

The following were elected Officers (2016-2017):

President: Dan Walsdorf - Advanced Custom Geothermal
Vice President: Jerry Brown - Brown Heating & Air Conditioning
Secretary - Steve Scholz - Eneritech
Treasurer - Dave Mitchell - Mitchell's Heating

Directors Approve Dues Increase for 2016/2017

One of the most difficult decisions a Board of Directors faces is the decision to increase dues. A decision was made recently to increase the dues paid by all categories of membership by \$50.00, beginning with 2016/2017 renewals.

Over the last several fiscal years, the WGA has grown its membership. During that time, we have focused on increasing the return on your dues investment by increasing our advocacy efforts, promoting higher standards for installations, and advancing the qualifications of geothermal loop field and system installers. We've been doing more to increase our outreach efforts and networking opportunities as well.

Put another way, we have been doing what we can to increase value without increasing expenses, but the need to create our own future for this industry will almost certainly demand more resources.

Thank you for your investment in the WGA. Together, we can continue to do what none of us can do alone. We will advance the industry and grow our share of the heating and cooling market, helping our member companies and our industry in 2016 and the years ahead.

GEO Ride to Be Held on Friday, June 3

The Annual GEO Ride will be held on Friday, June 3. The ride will start at Al Muth Harley-Davidson in Black River Falls and featured several stops.

Mark your calendar and look for additional information soon!



**WGA Golf Outing - Tuesday, July 26
Castle Course at Northern Bay
Arkdale, WI**



Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from 2015, the WGA Golf Outing will be returning to the Castle Course at Northern Bay Resort (Arkdale) on Tuesday, July 26.

Last year, we had our biggest turnout ever and we're hoping to build on that success and grow the event even further in 2016. The Castle Course is an exceptional golf experience, conveniently located in the center of the State. The course and the event are perfect for golfers of all experience levels.

Registration is Now Open

[Register Online](#)

[Download Registration Form](#)

[Download Sponsorship Form](#)



Congratulations to Our Inaugural Class of Master Geothermal Installers

At the Annual Conference, more than 20 individuals took either the Master Installer System or Loop Field examination. More than 30 examinations were given, with slightly more taking the System examination than the Loop Field examination.

A passing grade of 85 percent was established for the open-book test that also allowed individuals to use online resources (but not to take photos, send/receive emails, or text message).

We are please to introduce our Master Installers - Class of 2016:

System Installer

Jerry Brown
David Buscherfeld
Mark Doll
Dan Flock
Mark Flock
Kim Johnson
Jamie Livermore
Rick McCutchin
Dave Mitchell
Dave Mulder
Stan Olson
Jerry Sand
Jim Schuda
Sean Steffes
Dan Walsdorf
Matt Werdeo
Wade Wilson
Doug Zettle

Loop Field Installer

Jerry Brown
Mark Doll
Brandt Eisenga

Jess Green
Rick McCutchin
Kim Shuda
Sean Steffes
Bruce Walker
Dan Walsdorf
Matt Werdeo
Wade Wilson



WGA Continues Outreach Efforts

The WGA is busy promoting the geothermal industry. Recent and upcoming events include the Better Building Better Business (B4) Conference, the Oshkosh Truck Sustainability Fair, and a Geothermal Roundtable that the State Energy Office is planning for May. More on that soon....



Heat Exchange Drilling

As of April 1, 2015 the drilling of vertical heat exchange drill holes requires a heat exchange driller license issued through the Department of Natural Resources. Installers are advised to check that their drillers have the required license. Licenses are not required for all loop field installers, only vertical drill holes extend more than 25 feet below the surface.

The WGA's Bruce Walker has been appointed to the NR 812 Advisory Code Council to bring forward issues related to geothermal drilling. A lively discussion of some of the possible changes

was held during the Annual Conference and several of the ideas discussed there will be presented when the NR 812 Code Council meets in early April.

Licensed geothermal drillers must attend a minimum of six hours of continuing education each year and the Wisconsin Geothermal Association and Wisconsin Water Well Association have stepped up in this first year of required education to provide approved educational programs. The continuing education requirement applies to all license holders the year following the issuance of their licenses. Look to the WGA for additional, approved training programs.

Thoughts & Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jerry Brown, his family, and everyone at Brown Heating & Air Conditioning. Jerry's wife Laurel passed away on March 29.

News You Can Use

In 2016, natural gas will eclipse coal as the largest energy source used for the production of electricity. As supplies of natural gas are reduced, at least one company - Ponderosa Energy - is predicted that natural gas prices will rise, possibly by as much as 40 percent by 2020.

*

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there are approximately 276,000 HVACR mechanics in the United States. A new study from the agency suggests that as many as 115,000 new HVACR workers will be needed by 2022 to meet the anticipated demand. The 21 percent increase in HVACR jobs is more than twice the rate of growth in employment overall. HVACR jobs in Wisconsin are taking 30-39 days to fill, suggesting that demand is already outweighing supply in our State.

*

Although no major wind farms have been built in Wisconsin in the past five years, two proposals have emerged that would place 50 turbines near Plateville and another 44 in St. Croix County. Residents near the proposed St. Croix County wind farm continue to oppose the project because of concerns related to possible health effects.

*

Projects announced recently by Dairyland Power Cooperative and Xcel Energy are poised to double the capacity to generate solar electricity in Wisconsin. Dairyland will add 19 megawatts of generating capacity and Xcel will increase its solar generation capacity to 250 megawatts when the projects are complete.

*

Legislation passed in the 2015-2016 session will lift the moratorium on nuclear plants in the State. Legislators have said that nuclear is a renewable energy source and should be an available option, especially if the construction of the plants does not result in increased costs to consumers.

*

In other legislation, the budget for the Focus on Energy program has been reduced by \$7 million a year. Focus on Energy would continue to be funded by a fee paid by utilities, but utilities argued that there are instances where they are being charged twice. The cut to Focus not from a change in the rate, but from a change in the definition of activities subject to the fee. It is unclear yet how the change will affect geothermal projects relative to other renewable and efficiency rebates.

*

Nearly 25,000 people work in clean energy jobs in Wisconsin. As a percentage of overall employment, Wisconsin (0.87 percent) trails its neighboring states in the Midwest. Advocates for renewable energy in Wisconsin suggest that renewable energy goals should be increased from 10 percent and funding for the Focus on Energy program should be restored.

Get In The Loop!

OOOHHH
PICK ME!
PICK ME!



The WGA is always looking for volunteers to work on programs and services. Are you interested in any of these areas:

- Membership
- Newsletter
- Annual Conference
- Education
- Standards
- Government Relations
- GEO Ride
- Golf Outing
- Master Installer

Give us a call at (888) 782-6815 to learn more.

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