

LAS NEWSLETTER

FALL 2011



LAS Voluntary

Analyst Certification

Exam

There are four levels of exams: *A*, *B*, *C*, and *D*. Each exam is allotted three hours and consists of 100 multiple choice questions with 70 percent correct being the minimum required to pass. Those wishing to take the exam may do so at the T.W.U.A. Annual School, each of the T.W.U.A. Regional Schools, or on Fridays by appointment, at the T.W.U.A. Central Office (888/367-8982) or (512/459-3124) in Austin. Appointments should be made at least two weeks in advance of the date you would like to test. Results are mailed to the examinee within four to six weeks from the date of the exam and includes a personal diagnostic profile. Should you not pass, there is a two month waiting period before an exam may be retaken.

You are allowed one free retest, if you retest within six months of the original test date and at the same certification level. Upon successful completion of an exam, a certificate will be issued by the T.W.U.A. Laboratory Analysts Section. For more information on this section please visit their website at <http://www.txlas.net>.

Exam Fees/Validity Period/Renewal - All Levels

Exam Fees: \$ 105.00 Members / \$ 150.00 Non-Members

Validity Period: 3 Years

Training Credits Required for Renewal: 30 Hours

Renewal Fee: \$ 25.00 Members / \$ 50.00 Non-Members

CALLING ALL YOU PACKRATS!!

The LAS is trying to assemble a history of LAS award recipients! All you members who have been stashing away your Journals or announcements please have a look and see if you can help us with this bit of history. Also if you are a member that received an award in the past, please go ahead and send me your info and what you won. My e-mail is harveyc@trinityra.org . We would like to go all the way back to the beginning of LAS awards!!! Just send the name, name of the award and date. If you want to throw in where you got it (like annual school) and who handed it to you that is fine also. So go open that old box of magazines and stuff , or dust of that plaque and send us the info!

The 2011 LAS Scholarship Award Recipient

The Laboratory Analyst Section of TWUA awards its own Annual scholarship in conjunction with all the versions of the V.M. Ehlers scholarship awards. This occurs in August during the TWUA annual Mid-Year Board meeting. The LAS representative entrusted with managing this award is and has been for several years Ms. Debbie McReynolds.

For 2011 the LAS scholarship was awarded to Ms. Kaitlyn Harris. Ms. Harris is the daughter of long standing member Doug Harris out of Paris, Texas. Doug has served many times in leadership positions in the TWUA/LAS and we certainly congratulate him and Kaitlyn!

Kaitlyn attends the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, Oklahoma.



TWUA/LAS Annual Mid-Year Board Meeting Notes

The Annual LAS Mid-year Board Meeting was held at the Marriott Austin North Hotel in Round Rock, Texas. Present were Jason Wells , Chairperson; Debbie Magin, Treasurer; Jill Bolin , Awards Chairperson; Josie Longoria, Operations Challenge Chairperson; and David Moore of TWUA.

Chapter representations were Craig Harvey for North Texas, Josie Longoria for Alamo, and Jill Bolin for East Texas and Jason Wells for Permian.

Craig Harvey has volunteered to be acting Secretary for LAS for the present.

The Treasurer's report has the LAS balance at \$18,296.57. A donation of \$100 to Water for People was one of the new approved expenditures this year. A total membership of LAS at 202 was reported.

The scholarship report was given by chairperson Jason Wells. The 2011 recipient of the LAS scholarship is Kaitlyn Harris. She was awarded \$1000.00.

The awards report was made by committee chairperson Jill Bolin. Jill reported that the newest awards, Outstand Laboratory Analyst and the Alliance award, were big successes.

The website update was made by David Moore of TWUA. Mr. Moore reported that the TWUA website had been revamped and updated. He said that the LAS would have a place on this new website for the newsletter.

The Special Topics report was made by Jason Wells. Jason requested much more assistance in securing topics/speakers for the LAS Special Topics Class at the 2012 Annual School. The 2012 Annual School will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas. Dates for the school are March 5 through 7 and the host hotel is the Corpus Christi Omni Hotel. Multiple topics and potential speakers were discussed and members present volunteered to assist.

The Voluntary Analyst Certification update was made by Debbie Magin. Debbie reported that she, Debbie McReynolds, Gary Smith and Bill Cyrus comprised the testing review team and that they had all reviewed a proposal by ABC Testing to update the exams. The total cost for this service is \$3000.00. As of August 2011 there had been at least 8 new persons take the LAS voluntary certification exam.





LAS CHAPTERS

ALAMO *Josephine Longoria 830-379-5822 x247*

BIG COUNTRY *Andrew Killion 915-576-3401*

EAST TEXAS *Marvin Braughtigam 903-758-2083*

HOUSTON *Jason Gaswint 281-568-7880*

NORTH SULPHUR SABINE *Elmora Payton 903-789-3880*

NORTH TEXAS *Elizabeth Turner 972-442-5404*

PERMIAN BASIN *Lance Ward 432-388-3340*

PINEY WOODS *Inactive*

North Texas LAS Hosts Mercury Seminar

The North Texas LAS Chapter hosted a one day seminar on October 26, 2011 at the Trinity River Authority of Texas Central Regional Wastewater Project. The Seminar was done by CETAC Technologies and the topic was the analysis of low level mercury, techniques and requirements. A special discussion titled "How to Make the New Region 6 MQL's Work to Your Advantage - A Proactive Approach" was presented by Dr. Paul Boothe of Albion Environmental.

Seminar topics included:

EPA method 245.7 and EPA method 1631 for Mercury Analysis - A Brief History

Outfitting Your Laboratory for Ultra-Trace Mercury Analysis

Pragmatic Approach to Ultra Trace Mercury Analysis

Rapid Sample Introduction for EPA 200.7 and 200.8

Attendance for the seminar was very good and attendees came from all over the state.

The TCEQ is initiating a new set of Minimum Analytical Levels based on EPA Region 6 Minimum Quantification Levels. These MALs are enforced on wastewater treatment effluents as part of the RG 194 document (Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards). Mercury has for many years been assigned an MAL of 0.2 micrograms per liter (ug/L) and the "standard method" used for this analysis has been EPA method 245.1. The new MAL, due to take effect in 2012, is 0.005 ug/L when using EPA method 245.7 and 0.005 ug/L when using EPA method 1631E.

Houston LAS News

The Houston LAS has reorganized and has began monthly meetings on the third Thursday each month. The current president of the Houston LAS Chapter is Jason Gaswint. Jason is a graduate of Southwest Texas University (now Texas State University) and has over 9 years laboratory experience.

The Houston LAS has hosted several meetings which has included topics such as wastewater treatment, storm water, chlorine residual and chloramination. Future topics scheduled include pretreatment regulation and sampling, micro-organisms in process samples, and drinking water microbiology. The Houston LAS invites anyone in the Houston and surrounding area to attend a meeting. For more information and dates/times/locations of meetings please call Jason at 281-568-7880.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Storm Water Sewer System Quality *(Source: City of Pearland)*

What is the storm water sewer system? Storm water systems are made up of the inlets, and underground pipes which collect rain water runoff and conveys it to our to Galveston Bay.



What is the purpose of the storm water sewer system? Collecting and managing the rain water runoff, the storm sewer system helps to minimize ponding of water in streets and flooding homes.

Why is it important to keep storm water sewer system clean? Trash and debris dumped into the storm sewers will collect and ultimately clog, preventing rain water from draining properly. Which will lead to high water in streets and flooding.

Are grass clippings and yard debris harmful to the storm water sewer system? Even natural debris can accumulate in the storm sewer system and cause them to clog. Yard waste is a main contributor to the silt that fills ditches, culverts, streams, and bayous that prevents them from draining rain water.

How harmful is it to dump hazardous household products down the storm drain? Chemicals dumped into the storm sewer system can not only kill the wildlife that lives in the streams, bayous, and Galveston Bay, but also animals that may come in contact with the contaminated water. These chemicals can also leach into our aquifer and potentially make our drinking water unsafe.

Is not picking up my pet's waste really as bad as they say? Pet waste contains numerous bacteria and pathogens that can contaminate our water and are deadly to the plants and animals that live in our streams, bayous, and Galveston Bay. Regularly pick up pet's waste from yards and when taking them on walks, especially before it rains.

A FEW LAWS REGUALTING ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT:

Illegal Dumping of Solid Waste (TX Health & Safety Code, Section 365)

TX water Code Section 7.145

Offense	Weight	Volume	Penalty
Class C	5 lbs or less	5 Gallons or less	Fine up to \$500
Class B	5-500 lbs	5 Gallons - 100 ft ³	Fine up to \$2,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail.
Class A	500-1,000 lbs	100 ft ³ - 200 ft ³	Fine up to \$4,000 and/or one year in jail.
	5-200 lbs of commercial waste	5 Gallons - 200 ft ³ of commercial waste	Fine up to \$4,000 and/or one year in jail.
State Jail	100 lbs or more	200 ft ³ or more	Fine up to \$10,000 and/or 180 days to 2 yrs in jail.
Felony	200 lbs or more of commercial solid waste	200 ft ³ or more of commercial solid waste	Fine up to \$10,000 and/or 180 days to 2 yrs in jail.

Offense	Amount	Penalty
Used Oil	Any	Fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000 and up to 5 yrs in jail.
Discharge of waste of pollutants into the water of the state that causes or threatens to cause water pollution	Any	Each day is a separate violation. Fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000 and/or up to 1 yr in jail.

TX Water Code Section 7.185

Offense	Penalty
Illegal disposal of lead acid batteries- Class A misdemeanor	Each battery, each day is a separate offense. Fine of up to \$4,000 and/or 1 yr in jail.

