



# SoCal SETAC NEWS

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry  
Southern California Chapter

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## *President's Corner...*

Happy New Year! I am sure all of you, like your SETAC Board, have hit the ground running this new year. Our primary effort has been laying the groundwork for our upcoming annual conference in June. We have very nearly settled on a specific location as of production of this newsletter and have issued the first call for papers (in this issue). Also in this issue, you'll find a review of the National SETAC meeting held in Philadelphia last November, a detailed update on our plans for the Chapter Conference, the minutes of our December board meeting, an updated calendar of events, and Meet Your Board III featuring Phil Markle and his wacky sense of humor.

Our elections are fast approaching! Please submit your nominations (and don't be afraid to nominate yourself!) to any board member. Four board positions will be open during the 2000 elections. Ballots will be issued with the next newsletter in April, so please email or fax your nominees to Chris Stransky at [bcstransky@oees.com](mailto:bcstransky@oees.com) or 858-587-3961 (fax).

As always, volunteers are needed to assist with planning (*and executing!*) the details of the conference and other Chapter activities; we would especially appreciate some help with newsletter production. We hope you will take the time to get involved. All of our Board meetings are open to anyone wishing to learn more about how they can participate. And the snacks are pretty good, too. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at Ogden's San Diego offices and rotates North to South quarterly.

Since our last issue, we have acquired our own server space for our Chapter website – the new address is <http://www.wans.net/~socalsetac/>. Should be much easier to find us now. We're always looking for information for the site. Let us know what you would like to see or send along your input to Chris Stransky at [bcstransky@oees.com](mailto:bcstransky@oees.com).

Best wishes for a great start to the new year!

**Marilyn J. Schwartz**  
**Chapter President**

## **SoCAL SETAC ACTIVITIES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

*contributed by Joe Gully*

Once again, the SETAC Annual Meeting was a fantastic professional gathering as well as a great time. The Southern California SETAC Chapter was well represented at the meeting but the turnout for our Monday morning regional chapter meeting was a bit sparse. I suspect that even the promise of free coffee, juice, and danishes could not overcome the jet-lag and time difference for many SoCal SETAC members. About ten of us made the meeting where the plans for the 2000 SoCal SETAC Annual Meeting were informally discussed.

Afterwards several of us found time to tour the historical sites of Philadelphia. Some of the stops included the Liberty Bell (photo), Constitution Hall, numerous grave sites, and the house where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.



That evening, there was an open regional chapters meeting where we were introduced to the new Regional Chapter Administrator, Ellen Mihaich (Rhodia Inc.). Representatives from each of the regional chapters presented an overview of their membership and activities. Our President, Marilyn Schwartz, did the honors for the Southern California Chapter. This was a great opportunity to hear what the other chapters are doing and share their successes and failures.

Towards the end of the meeting, the usual suspects spent an evening on Philly's famous South Street and managed to pick up a few other SETAC members in the process (photo). Between the "unique" shops, pubs, and cheese steaks, the South Street experience was quite memorable.



Next year's National meeting will be held in Nashville, TN from November 12-16 and we will surely plan another Regional Chapter meeting and some informal social events. We hope to see you there.

### **SO CAL SETAC 2000 MEETING UPDATE**

*contributed by Joe Gully*

The Board of Directors are furiously organizing the SoCal SETAC 2000 Annual Meeting. The details of the meeting are still being developed but here is the plan at this time. The meeting will be in the San Diego area and we are evaluating hotels in the Mission Beach, Gaslight District, and North County areas. The meeting will be in June with the most likely dates being the 15-17 (Thurs-Sat). We hope to keep the cost of the meeting in the \$50-\$75 range so we are trying to get the best combination of location and price to meet this price range.

The board is also in the preparing a strong technical program. We are planning a short course on whole effluent toxicity data interpretation, a timely plenary session on the regulation of stormwater, and several

platform and poster sessions related to environmental toxicology and chemistry. If anybody is interested in organizing a session, please contact me by phone (562-699-0405 ext. 3060) or e-mail ([jgully@lacsdsd.org](mailto:jgully@lacsdsd.org)) and I will be glad to assist in the process. We are also arranging an entertaining social event for one evening during the meeting. This will likely be either a bay cruise or an after hours tour of the Stephen Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institute with snacks and beverages.

More details on these events will be made as soon as they are finalized, but at this point in time, we need your help to ensure the success of the meeting. We are requesting abstracts for platform or poster presentation at the conference (see first call for papers in this newsletter). Any primary research, case study, monitoring program data, or policy based papers related to environmental toxicology and chemistry are acceptable. We also encourage presentation of student proposals and research at the meeting by offering a Best Student Paper Award. This meeting is also a great opportunity to present information from the last SETAC Annual Meeting to those who could not attend or prepare for the Nashville meeting. The abstracts are due May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000 so you have plenty of time to put together a presentation. If you are presenting, please plan on supporting the chapter by attending the meeting. It will surely be a great time and you may learn something in the process. Hope to see you in June.

**WANT TO JOIN NATIONAL SETAC?**

**For an application, please contact Marilyn Schwartz at 858-458-9044 ext. 300 or by email at:**  
[mjschwartz@oees.com](mailto:mjschwartz@oees.com)

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 8, 1999**

*contributed by Marilyn Schwartz*

On December 8, a SoCal SETAC Officer and Board of Directors meeting was held at the offices of JSA Environmental in Long Beach, CA.

Lan Wiborg provided the Treasurer's report. She confirmed the completion of signature transfer paperwork, updated our account, expense, and revenue status, and discussed her ongoing efforts to finalize our non-profit status which should be in place shortly.

Chris Stransky's Secretary's report updated the board on our new website address and server information and cost. Upcoming newsletter assignments were also reviewed. Again, our NEW web address is <http://www.wans.net/~socialsetac/>.

Following officer's reports, the next topic was the planning of our annual meeting. Finalization of location,

dates, plenary and session speakers and topics, a short course, and possible social activities were the first orders of business. Please read Joe Gully's detailed review of the meeting status in this issue for an update.

Eddy Zeng provided information on the upcoming Southern California Environmental Chemist Society (SCES) which will take place in March or April at the Orange County Sanitation District offices. Please contact Eddy at [eddyz@sccwrp.org](mailto:eddyz@sccwrp.org) for up to date details. The theme will be the toxicity of chemical contaminants.

Finally, a discussion of the inclusion of student awards at our annual meeting resulted in a decision to enact some sort of award, details to be finalized closer to the meeting. Potential for a student chapter was also discussed and tabled pending further discussion, but new ideas to increase student involvement in the regular chapter meetings were decidedly important to the group.

Thanks to Kat Prickett and JSA Environmental for graciously hosting our meeting – and providing a spectacular view!

**RENEWAL REMINDER**

SoCal SETAC Membership is fully tax deductible and a great bargain at \$20. Please contact any board member or see our website for an application. And thanks for your continued support of SoCal SETAC.

1999-2000 Memberships run from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

**MEET YOUR BOARD...**



*Philip Markle, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts*

I was born in the fall of 1963 in a small log cabin in Encino, CA. At the age of two my family and I ventured south eventually settling down in the small western town of Orange, CA. My childhood through the 60s and 70s was carefree and innocent, oblivious to the tumultuous upheaval straining the growing democracy during these times. My long summer days were often spent distributing leaflets at the beach, while my scholastic interests focused on music and sports. After high school, I immediately enrolled at California State University Long Beach. Interested in attaining a Bachelor Degree of any kind, I selected Marine Biology as a major because it was the closest thing to “underwater basket weaving” I could find in the catalog. Little did I know at the time, this decision would eventually shape my life forever.

It was during college that I discovered a respect for nature and embraced the brilliance that is the scientific method. By the time I realized that I was wrong regarding the relative ease of my degree choice, I was “hooked” and eventually graduated with a B.S. in Marine Biology in 1988. Initially disappointed in how long it took me to complete my studies, I have since learned that many people take seven years to finish college (we just call most of them doctor).

After graduation I gained employment at the L.A. County Sanitation Districts Biology group and have been employed there ever since. My current responsibilities include coordination, data analysis, and result interpretation of NPDES freshwater chronic testing using EPA promulgated methods. Testing involves multiple species on both tertiary effluent and receiving water samples. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to pursue research interests primarily involving whole effluent toxicity testing using freshwater species. Previous and current research topics include issues of test variability, statistical analysis and design, QA/QC, and protocol variations and their effects of data interpretation. I am currently involved in TIE/TRE testing, particularly evaluating reproduction effects on *C. dubia* in samples with elevated ammonia. Any advice, direction, guidance, or assistance in this area would be greatly appreciated.

I have been a So Cal SETAC board member for five years and a prior newsletter editor and national chapter member for the past six years. I have also been involved with the Southern California Toxicity Assessment Group (SCTAG) since its inception. I am married with two wonderful daughters (Shannon, 5 and Erin, 3) which keeps me busy when I am not working. Some of my non-professional interests include; 1.) hiking - I try to take several one week or longer trips a year but also enjoy weekend escapes to the Sierras and local (San Bernardino and San Gabriel) mountains. I have been making extended trips into the Grand Canyon for several years now and never tire of the region. Anyone looking for a hiking partner, please consider me. 2.) Running - I have been running now for four years and have run five marathons during that time (3:50 to 4:00 hours). Lately I have been very active in trail running and would really like to find other people interested in the same. 3.) Herpetology - I do not currently keep reptiles, but was successful in the captive breeding of three different species of chameleon a few years back. 4.) Stained Glass - My most recent hobby has been stained glass window design and construction. I would love to meet others interested in this hobby and I am always looking for new sources of glass or supplies. 5.) Paleontology - Fossil hunting and collecting mostly. 6.) Fishing - Freshwater / saltwater, you name, I love it. Not real hard core (I don't flyfish) but I get out when I can and once a year I get down to Cabo for a few days of fishing. 7.) Music - I particularly enjoy classical but Reverend Horton Heat also rocks! 8.) Baseball - A huge passion of mine. I must confess, I hate the designated hitter rule and believe Pete Rose should be in the Hall of Fame. I am partial to the National League but I also get out to minor league games and even a few Anaheim Angel games (hey, aren't they minor league?) when I can.

Well, that is me in nutshell. It has been a very rewarding experience being part of the board and I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many very interesting, committed and special people. I feel that I have gained much more from the experience than I (regretfully) put into it. Anyone even remotely interested in serving should give it a try. In closing, I think it is only appropriate that I list a few of my likes and dislikes. Turn-ons are sunshine, enthusiasm, independence, and conviction. Turn-offs include cold weather, complacency, crowds, and fourth of July fireworks. Oh yes, and mustard too!

And a last word – he cleans up pretty well (Phil at far left):



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS... *contributed by Scott Steinert***

**JANUARY 2000**

**What is a Healthy Watershed Workshop.** January 13-14, 2000. Chico, CA. Call 530-758-2100 or 1-888-815-3330 and ask for Bobbie Cox.

**The Wildlife Society Western Section Annual Meeting 2000.** January 27-29, 2000, Riverside, CA.  
[www.tws-west.org](http://www.tws-west.org)

**MARCH 2000**

**Xth World Water Congress.** March 11-17, 2000, Melbourne Convention Center, Melbourne, Australia  
For more information, please contact: Lisa Mc Naught, Congress Secretariat, ICMS Pty Ltd. 84  
Queensbridge Street, Southbank, Victoria, Australia 3006  
Tel: + 61 3 9682 0244, Fax: + 61 3 9 682 0288, [worldwide@icms.com.au](mailto:worldwide@icms.com.au)

**Regional Monitoring Program for Trace Substances Annual Meeting.** March 13, 2000. For more  
information contact Gabriele Marek at 510-231-5713 or [gabriele@sfei.org](mailto:gabriele@sfei.org).

**The 219th ACS National Meeting.** San Francisco, CA. March 26-30, 2000.

[www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

**APRIL 2000**

**ASTM 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.** April 10-12, 2000, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Bruce Greenberg, T: 519 888 4567 x4567; F: 519 746 0614; [greenber@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:greenber@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca).

**Ecological Society of America, BES/ESA Meeting.** Orlando, FL. April 2000.  
[esa.sdsc.edu/bes-esa.html](http://esa.sdsc.edu/bes-esa.html)

**MAY 2000**

**Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds: The Second International Conference** , May 21-24, 2000, Doubletree & Marriott Hotels/Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, California. [www.battelle.org/environment/er/chloconf.html](http://www.battelle.org/environment/er/chloconf.html)

**Global Environmental Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Problems, Causes and Solutions. Third SETAC World Congress** May 21-25, 2000, Brighton, U.K., Contact: SETAC Europe, Brussels, Belgium, T: 32 2 772 72 81; F: 32 2 770 5386; [setac@ping.be](mailto:setac@ping.be).

**JULY 2000**

**The Coastal Society 17th International Conference.** July 9-12, 2000. Portland Marriott, Portland, Oregon. Laurie Jodice, Office Marine Resource Management, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, 104 Ocean Admin. Building, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-5503, phone: 541-737-1340, fax: 541-737-2064 [jodicel@oce.orst.edu](mailto:jodicel@oce.orst.edu)

**AUGUST 2000**

**Ecological Society of America 85th Annual Meeting.** August 6-10 ,2000. Snowbird, UT. [Esa.sdsc.edu/snowbird2000.html](http://Esa.sdsc.edu/snowbird2000.html)

**SEPTEMBER 2000**

**5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium and Exhibition on Environmental Contamination in Central and Eastern Europe.** Sept. 12-14, 2000, Prague, Czech Republic. Contact: <http://www.prague2000.fsu.edu>.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER? - LET US KNOW!**

**COMINGS & GOINGS, CALENDAR EVENTS, GREAT BOOKS OR WEBSITES, ...**