



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

Students Got Talent!

By Lisa Schatz

The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) is a proud sponsor of the State Science and Engineering Fair. This year's competition marks the 63rd annual event held at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Students from six regions across the state competed for awards and scholarships.

Since 1995, NDRWSA has presented awards to students for projects that address water and wastewater issues. These projects explore many facets of water science, such as improving the quality of drinking water, affects of water pressure, water quality affected by soil type and fertilizers, and protecting water resources.

Approximately 200 students participated in this year's event. The two projects judged as the overall winners in each North Dakota region competed at the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Phoenix, Ariz. In May, nearly 1,500 high school students from across the nation showcased their independent research in Arizona.

Mike Rittman and Les Sigette of NDRWSA helped judge this year's student projects. "I am amazed at the originality of projects and the effort put forth by students to uncover new knowledge about the universe we live in," says Sigette.

This year's winners were:



Brenna Ketterling

The recipient of this year's NDRWSA State Fair award went to Brenna Ketterling of Wishek Public School. Ketterling received \$100 and a plaque of recognition. Her project analyzed how fertilizers and soil type affected water quality. Seven different soil types were tested before and after fertilizer application to see if the water, chemicals, and fertilizers change the nutrients in the soil as well as the water.

Kelsey Gaukler

Kelsey Gaukler of Hankinson Public School received \$50 and a plaque of recognition. Gaukler's project analyzed the water quality from four different lakes located in southeastern North Dakota. The lake water was tested for bacterial contamination levels and the water's ability to increase or decrease the growth of invasive plants.



Nathan Steffan

Nathan Steffan of Lakota High School received \$50 and a plaque of recognition. His project entitled, "Need Pressure" was to determine if a

90-degree angle affects water pressure. Steffan determined angles do slow down water pressure and build up resistance in the flow of water.

Lora Horner

Lora Horner of Wishek Public School received \$50 and a plaque of recognition. Horner's project was titled, "What's in my Water?" and used five different water sources, all located around the farm, to determine particles in the water labeled as PPM, pH balance of water, and the copper and iron levels.



NDRWSA is proud to be a part of this successful annual science fair event and would like to congratulate this year's winners and wish these young leaders success in their future endeavors.



NDRWSA Program Brings Training to Hundreds Across North Dakota

Over the past year, the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) has provided 28 hands-on training sessions to rural and small city systems across the state. More than 300 managers and operators have benefited from full and half-day sessions on topics such as water treatment and chemical safety, water loss and pressure management, subsurface locating, operator certification preparation, small system funding options, tower and well management, and control valve training. These sessions are provided free of charge to both members and non-members of NDRWSA.

NDRWSA's training is part of the national Training and Technical Assistance Program, which is managed by the National Rural Water Association and operated by state rural water associations. NDRWSA Training Specialist Andy McDonald organizes and coordinates the training sessions, which are conducted by NDRWSA's staff and associate members who are experts in their particular fields. The Training and Technical Assistance Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

As part of this program, technical assistance is provided to rural and small city water systems in formal classroom sessions with follow up, on-site technical assistance in Safe Drinking Water Act compliance issues, public health protection as it relates to drinking water, managerial issues, financial issues, and operational issues.

All training is eligible for operator reimbursement through the North Dakota Department of Health, as well as Continuing Education Units toward Operator Certification.

Upcoming training sessions are available on NDRWSA's

website www.ndrw.org and clicking the training schedule tab on the left of the screen. Those interested in holding a training session in or near a specific area should contact NDRWSA at 701-258-9249 or e-mail amcdonald@ndrw.org.



Water system professionals receive training that suits their needs, whether it be in a hands-on setting or in a classroom environment.