

EWB newsletter

PDX Professionals



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Bua Ecuador Project By Kathy Grantz

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The community of Bua is one of seven remaining communities of the Tsachila culture - also more widely known as "Colorados", a reference to the red color they use to dye the men's hair and the lines they paint on their bodies. There are less than 3,000 remaining



Bua community members in Tsachila traditional dress

community to aid in the development of an ethnographic museum, medicinal gardens, as well as developing a waste recycling program and installing demonstration eco-toilets at the museum. Yanapuma contacted EWB Portland Professionals Chapter asking for technical help with several problems they had observed at the local school, Abraham Calazacon. Like many rural schools, Abraham Calazacon is severely under-funded and lacks many of the basic necessities for satisfactory education. Most urgent is the state of the sanitation system. The existing septic tank is not capable of supporting the current and growing student population of roughly 250 students, and sewage from the undersized



Children at play in the Bua community.

system often spills out onto the open ground. Making matters worse, the septic field is located near the existing water supply well. This, as well as other sanitation

and potable water-related issues, will be assessed in March when our first team meets with the Bua community and the school. This first trip is to assess the situation on-the-ground. Our team is made up of Portland based professionals with a variety of backgrounds, travel

President's Letter

Happy 2008! The Portland Professional EWB chapter is pleased to issue our first ever newsletter. In this newsletter I hope you take a few moments to learn about what we have been up to and what we have in store for the coming year.

The new year inevitably stirs us to take stock of the days past and wonder what will come next. For the Portland Professionals, the year 2007 found us supporting Oregon student chapters through professional mentorship, strengthening our relationships with local organizations, embarking on a new project in Ecuador, and co-hosting the third and largest West Coast Regional Workshop.

We enter 2008 with strong leadership, a motivated and productive Ecuador project team, a potential new project in Haiti with a team already taking root, and a commitment to further the mission of EWB locally as well as globally. We are excited to forge strong, lasting relationships with our partner communities and organizations.

That these endeavors are on pure volunteer effort never fails to amaze and inspire me. I would therefore like to extend a huge thank you to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers as well as the generous support of our sponsors. I look forward to continuing this good work together to end poverty on this planet.

Sincerely,
Kim Slack
President, EWB-Portland Professionals

Member Spotlight



This member spotlight shines on Dan and Jen Garbely, who are among the group of Portland engineers who founded this great city's professional chapter. Both are environmental engineers, Jen at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants and Dan at CH2M HILL. Clearly, the full time engineer schedule isn't enough to keep them busy. Since 2003, they have both been very active in furthering the growth and development of EWB. Jen served on our chapter's fundraising committee for two years. Dan founded the West Coast Region in 2004 and served as the region's President until 2007. During that time he directed three successful workshops, the last of which was in Portland this past fall. They both served as professional mentors for Oregon State University's water project in El Salvador. They also served on the Cal Poly chapter's water and sanitation project in Thailand.

Dan has recently accepted a new position within CH2MHill that has taken him to Sri Lanka for the next 6 – 10 months. There he will be an assistant construction manager and will oversee the construction of nine schools and a water treatment plant. Dan has confirmed that their house is on the beach, which means that Jen has the opportunity to get a tan and hone her surfing skills before looking for work of her own.

We want to thank the Garbelys for all the hard work they have done for EWB – West Coast and congratulate them on this exciting opportunity!

experiences in various Latin American countries, and other international social and volunteer activities. Tom Ferrell, the travel team lead, is currently finishing a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering and working as a consulting engineer on water treatment, utilities, and stream restoration projects. Ayn Generes will be the technical lead for the site assessment team. Her background is as a Project Designer and Engineer, designing single-family residential developments and providing integrated stormwater management solutions for the private, government and industrial industry. Rachel Armstrong is currently doing water and wastewater projects for several Oregon communities. Her skills include surveying, pipe design, construction inspection, stormwater management, and master planning. Danny Peralta has a Mechanical Engineering background and as a Chilean-American is fluent in both English and Spanish. He will be key in the development of community relations. Erin George, has a Civil Engineering background focusing on soil testing methodology and classification. She is the health point person for the travel



Children at play at the Abraham Calazacon School.

team and is responsible for obtaining pertinent health and safety information. The assessment team is backed by a much larger project team of twenty-two other professionals helping to ensure that we obtain the information necessary to optimize potential solutions for the Abraham Calazacon school. Proposed solutions must be sustainable and supported by the local community, unlike the current septic system.

In our first fundraiser to support this project, we received a Christmas present of \$1,325 dollars in donations from friends and family of team members (the checks are still coming in!). As well, the team received the news that it was awarded a grant of \$5,000 from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, the first grant ever received by the Portland Professionals Chapter. This is a great start towards funding our project. Look for more information about our next fund raiser in April/May.

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Workshop Wrap-Up By Mauria Pappagallo



Workshop participants in the Surveying Skills and Techniques technical track

This year the Portland Professional Chapter Co-hosted the West Coast Regional Workshop with the Portland State University Chapter. The workshop was held at the Portland State University campus on October 12-14th and was a huge success! Of the four EWB-USA regional workshops held this fall across the country, the West Coast Regional

Workshop in Portland was the most heavily attended at over 200 participants. The workshop steering committee set a goal to have all the chapters within the region represented. We are pleased to say that of the 41 active and developing chapters in the region 28 chapters were represented, and overall, members from 34 chapters attended the workshop.

The goal of the EWB-USA regional workshops is to help chapters and projects teams to develop and enhance chapter management, project execution, and technical skills. The workshop commenced with an address from Kathy Leslie, the executive director of EWB-USA followed by an impressive Keynote speech by Congressman Earl Blumenauer. Throughout the workshop there were five hands-on technical breakout sessions, numerous panels and forums to discuss project and chapter management, and an abundance of time to meet and network with students and professionals from across the region. It concluded with a hands-on presentation by Diane Tate on Resolving Conflict with Communities and Project Teams.

In addition to the hands-on technical training, panels and forums, we were excited to hold two new events at this year's workshop. The first was a career fair, which brought globally-minded employers and EWB members together to network with one another. The second special event --jVivamos!-- our sizzling Saturday night salsa party. Workshop attendees shared a dinner and then filled the dance floor for salsa lessons and music by the local band Cuba Aché. Based on the feedback we



John Patterson of Mr. Sun Solar Teaches Photovoltaic System design

received, the sessions, social events, lectures, and open forums were both inspiring and directly applicable to the projects at hand. This year's workshop could not have been so successful without all the support we received from our sponsors: CH2MHill, Esco, PB, MacKay & Sposito Inc, Geosyntec Consultants, Parametrix, Tetra Tech, Contech Stormwater Solutions, Herrera Environmental Consultants, URS, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, David Evans and Associates, WRG Design, and Vigil-Agrimis Inc.

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Les Anglais Haiti Project By Carolyn Shapiro

Our chapter is organizing a new project in Les Anglais, Haiti. This project would be a partnership with OSLC (Our Saviors Lutheran Church) in Lake Oswego and RMI (Reciprocal Ministries International) in Haiti. Jim Shaw of OSLC gave a presentation at our December Chapter meeting on the work that his group has done in Les Anglais starting in 1988. On a recent trip OSLC brought in medical professionals and supplies to conduct a free health clinic in Les Anglais. They noticed a consistent set of problems



Boy on his way to collect water in Les Anglais

in their patients, including dehydration, low grade fevers, and stomach and bowel disorders. OSLC sampled various drinking water sources and found high coliform counts in all sources.

They wish to address the contaminated drinking water problem with the help of our EWB chapter. OSLC has funding to donate for equipment purchase. The existing water system comprises two 40,000 gallon reservoirs located in the mountains above Les Anglais, and a distribution system that delivers water to taps located throughout the town area. There is no electricity in Les Anglais other than several private generators. There is a water board that is tasked to maintain the existing system. The water board chlorinates the reservoirs only a few times a year due to inability to purchase more chlorine. Users are charged a fee per pipe (tap location) and typically several families must share a pipe in order to afford the water fee, although Jim mentioned that enforcement is not likely. Children are often tasked to carry water from the pipe to the family home in carriers that are often not disinfected. Boiling water is impractical due to lack of fuel for cooking. The system often runs dry during certain times of the year. The drinking water system serves a community of 15,000 people. The population of Les Anglais was 32,000 in 2007 and is estimated to grow to 42,000 by 2017. The 2007 hurricane season was a stormy one in Haiti, which resulted in disastrous crop losses, and damage to roads and homes in the area. OSLC has invited up to 3 EWB members to join their next trip to Les Anglais from February 28 – March 7, 2008. We would use this trip as an opportunity to

gather technical and community health information to assist in project planning and selection of an appropriate solution for the drinking water contamination issue, and ultimately improving the health of the Les Anglais population. We have a list of about 20 EWB members who have expressed interest in participating in this project and welcome additional volunteers, particularly those with experience in drinking water treatment and water resource assessment, protection, development, and

Volunteer Opportunities

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WITHOUT
BORDERS
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A motivated group of AWB-Oregon volunteers is looking for a **Structural Engineer** to help remodel and weatherize an existing barn at Tryon Farms (south Portland). Contact Curtis Banger if interested.

and in community health assessment and education. Please contact Carolyn Shapiro, carolynshapiro@ewbportland.org if you would like to participate.

EWB Portland Professionals newsletter is an official member publication of the Engineers Without Borders, Portland Professionals. To contact us e-mail Kim Slack at kimslack@ewbportland.org, or visit us on the web at www.ewbportland.org.