

Exploratory Trip to Les Anglais

By Kelly Cushing

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (OSLC) in Lake Oswego invited two members of EWB in Portland to join them on their annual trip to Les Anglais Haiti to investigate improving the water supply. After flying into Port-au-Prince and then on to Les Cayes we started the last leg on the road to Les Anglais. The beginning of the road from Les Cayes to Les Anglais is paved with stout bridges but the remainder is rough with river fords. Upon arrival in Les Anglais we were escorted through town by a parade of children and a drill team. The OSLC people are well-respected by the town.

The first order of business was a meeting with officials from the water board and one of the mayors. They asked for help increasing capacity and performing repairs. The mayor offered the support of community labor and was enthusiastic about having EWB train community members to assist with the project. The next day we met the other two mayors and were escorted the length of each water line to catalog repairs and take samples. Carolyn Shapiro and I were prepared to take water samples from key points in the water distribution system as well as local springs and wells. *(Continued on Page 2)*



Fetching water in Les Anglais

President’s Letter

¡Hola! Bonjour!

With all the news we had for you in our last issue, it’s hard to imagine that we could have so many exciting updates to share with you just a few months later. Great things are happening with EWB in Portland. It’s a time of growth, action, and change. We have watched with excitement as our active membership numbers have expanded. We are also following through on our promise to serve locally with local project opportunities in the works. As you will read in the accompanying articles, our two international projects in Ecuador and Haiti are making good progress.

With my one-year presidential term over in June, chapter leadership will transition to the very capable hands of Aaron Poresky. I have immensely enjoyed my time as president of the Portland Professionals. Along the way I have learned a great deal and have worked with truly amazing people. Thank you for all your support and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Kim Slack, Past President

Greetings Folks!

I am excited to be taking over the President position with such momentum behind our chapter. Our past leaders have set our chapter on a course for success, and I am confident in our talented team of volunteers to keep it going. Sincere thanks are due to those who are active in our chapter and those who support us. I can’t wait to see what we’ll accomplish in the year to come.

There are many ways to be involved with EWB in Portland, and we are always looking to expand and strengthen our team. I invite you to contact me personally so that we can identify the opportunity that suits you best. Let’s make some change together!

Regards,
Aaron Poresky, Incoming President
aaronporesky@ewbportland.org
www.ewbportland.org/involvement

Introducing Tammy

Hello Portland Professionals!

I had the pleasure of meeting several of you at the International Conference in Seattle and thought I would formally introduce myself to the rest of the chapter.

My name is Tammy Wergin and I am the **Chapter Relations Manager** serving the West Coast and Mid-West regions for the national office in Longmont, CO. I am your advocate and representative at the national level and handle questions related to chapters and projects. My priority is to see that you have everything you need in order to fulfill your humanitarian mission. I look forward to working with your chapter to achieve the vision and mission of EWB-USA.

Thank you for all you do with your chapter, host communities and EWB – it is truly appreciated.

Warmly,
Tammy
Tammy.Wergin@ewb-usa.org; 720-204-3195 Direct

Member Spotlight



I am proud to do a member spotlight on **Kay Mattson**, who is currently volunteering for the EWB's Les Anglais, Haiti project. She has been an integral part in helping the team develop and eventually implement a health assessment for the community. Kay has worked for the last fifteen years in program management for various health care, housing, and human service programs. Kay has a Masters in Social Work and has recently graduated with a Masters in Public Health (MPH). Her focus for her MPH was international health with an emphasis in water, sanitation, hygiene, and environmental health. She interned with Mercy Corps in Portland and Jakarta, Indonesia. Kay's work at Mercy Corps focused on water, sanitation and hygiene projects. Currently she is serving as a Public Health Advisor to Oregon State University's chapter of EWB on a drinking water project for El Salvador. She assisted with the development and implementation of the project's health assessment survey last December.

Kay is currently employed as a national grant coordinator at OHSU's Center for Evidence-Based Policy. In her free time, Kay enjoys white water kayaking, snowboarding, sailing, gardening, and does plane barrel rolls with her husband (she is the passenger).

We want to thank Kay for all of her hard work on past projects and also her dedication to the on-going Haiti project.

Contributed By Heidi Kriz

Les Anglais, cont'd from Page 1. At every stop we collected more curious people until the truck bed was full. On every outing we were accompanied by an RMI driver and translator.

Les Anglais is a clean town with some paved streets and a small health clinic. The town is supplied with water from two springs, each with well-constructed catchment basins and reservoirs. Cement platforms with self closing valves are distributed along the pipeline and throughout town where people fill buckets to carry water home. Unfortunately most sites tested positive for fecal coliform. Leaks in the pipes are one



A reservoir in Les Anglais

source for intrusion of contaminants but are repairable. We have created a list of tools and materials necessary for repair and repair training on a future trip. We are researching three methods of water purification and will be presenting these to our partner organization to develop the project budget.

The Les Anglais project has been approved by EWB-USA and we look forward to our site assessment trip in June if political conditions permit.

Bua Assessment Trip

By Rachel Armstrong

The Bua Site Assessment Team returned in early April from a successful visit to the Tsachila village of Bua! Bua is located in a slightly deforested jungle roughly 30 minutes by bus from one of Ecuador's larger cities, Santo Domingo. This project is in cooperation with the Yanapuma Foundation, an Ecuadorian NGO based in Quito, who requested assistance from EWB to improve the sanitation and water supply systems at a Tsachila indigenous school serving 250 children.

Arriving in Quito, the team connected with Yanapuma re-establishing project goals. We then traveled to Santo Domingo and on to Bua. With the aid of the Yanapuma, the local community has established a beautiful cultural center where visitors and volunteers can stay and learn about the Tsachila people. We enjoyed evenings with the host family, eating local cuisine (mostly rice, plantains, and chicken), and cooling off in the nearby river.

Through discussions and touring the community, we learned about the local culture, health situation, and general school issues. At an informal community meeting, the team discussed the project with the school principal, the "Padres de Familias" (village leaders), and other community members. Big thanks go to Danny Peralta, the team's interpreter! Because the current sanitation and water supply facilities are so limited, the school is unable to grow to accommodate the educational needs of the community. The local leaders are very enthusiastic about the project possibilities, such as building composting toilets and improving the water quality.

Using EWB-owned and rented equipment, we completed a survey of the school land and buildings and tested water from the well to assist with the project design. The team confirmed that the septic system is in dire straits and likely beyond repair. In addition to visiting Bua, the team coordinated an informational tour of constructed wetlands built by NEWS (New England Waste Systems) and used for wastewater treatment, in Santo Domingo. This technology is also being explored as a solution to the school's sanitation problem. *(Continued on Page 3)*



Children in Bua

Bua Site Assessment, cont'd from Page 2. Given a fresh perspective on the situation at the school and renewed project priorities, the Bua project team is now evaluating potential design solutions for the school. With input from the community leaders, the selected designs will be constructed during another trip, the implementation trip.

Pictures of the trip can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/pictures.ewbportland/Ecuador0308>. We thank you for your continued interest and support of our project. In the next few months we'll be updating you about recommended design solutions and our upcoming plans.

International Conference Summary By Seema Ghosh



The Engineers Without Borders International Conference took place at the University of Washington in Seattle from March 27-30th. This year's conference was an inspiring event focusing on Sustainable Engineering and Global Health. Eight members of the EWB-Portland Professionals Chapter were able to attend this year's conference and gained much insight and inspiration that they will apply to our chapter.

The conference opened with an inspirational talk given by William H. Gates, Sr., Co-Chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This was followed by project presentations from the conference host chapters. Also on the first day of the conference a panel of people from various health related fields ranging from a Center for Disease Control employee to a nurse and founder of MAMAS International discussed engineering solutions for public health needs.

An awards ceremony and gala event was held Friday evening at the Museum of Flight where Bonnie Dunbar, the President and CEO of the Museum of Flight and former NASA astronaut, gave a motivational talk about her life experiences. Several EWB chapters and members were given various awards and scholarships.

Each day, attendees could choose from several workshops and panel discussions where various chapters discussed challenges, successes, and lessons learned from their projects. Attendees were able to see a different perspective when speakers from Bolivia and Ghana talked about their experiences working with EWB. Another interesting and inspiring presentation was given by Adam Abramson from EWB-Israel and Amer Rabaya from EWB-Palestine. Adam and Amer met each other and despite the tense situation in the Israel/Palestine managed to establish a strong relationship and are currently brainstorming ways in which to collaborate.

To end the conference Bernard Amadei, the founder of EWB, gave a sobering but inspirational talk. Here are just a few facts that Amadei listed in his presentation:

- 1.2 billion lack clean water
- 2.4 billion lack adequate sanitation
- 2.4 billion are at risk with malaria
- 29,000 children die from hunger daily
- 1.1 billion overfed vs. 1.1 billion underfed
- 1.6 billion have no access to electricity
- 4.2 billion are unable to read
- 1.8 billion live in conflict zones, in transition, or in situations of permanent instability

Amadei also spoke of the change EWB has made and can make, stating that change starts small. He gave this quote from Dr. Calestous Juma from the Kennedy School of Government: **“Science and technology are linked to economic growth: scientific and technical capabilities determine the ability to provide clean water, good health care, adequate infrastructure, and safe food.”** (Continued on Page 4)

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Parametrix



International Conference, cont'd from Page 3. Amadei's and other presentations given at the conference can be found at <http://www.ewb-usa.org/2008ConferencePresentation.php>. Please look forward to the EWB-USA 2009 International Conference will that will be held in Chicago!

We'd like to thank the corporations who provided assistance to EWB members with registration fees and time off to attend the conference. These few days interacting with other members from around the country gave us a unique opportunity to learn and share, and bring new energy to our work here in Portland.

Student Chapter Collaboration By Aaron Poresky

A key role of professional chapters is to provide support and guidance to student chapters. These collaborative relationships are important to the success of student chapter projects and can be a great way for professionals to gain project experience and be involved in the organization. EWB Portland Professionals works with student chapters at Portland State, University of Portland, and Oregon State.

Last fall I had the opportunity to be involved with the OSU chapter, my alma mater, as they planned for and completed an implementation trip in El Salvador. It was a fast-paced process of preparation and adjustments in the months leading up to the trip. Likewise, as the first foreign construction effort undertaken by the chapter, the trip held its share of surprises and challenges. In the end, we accomplished our goal of constructing a rainwater collection facility and laying plans for upcoming phases of implementation. It was a great learning experience for the team and not a bad way to spend the two weeks in December.

If you're interested in being involved with the student chapters in our area, please contact me at aaronporesky@ewbportland.org.



Upcoming Events Calendar

May 31—Girls Engineering Day, kimslack@ewbportland.org

June 11—June Chapter Meeting

June 13-24—Pending Haiti Assessment Trip

July TBD—EWB Summer BBQ

July 24—Fundraiser—FLOW Movie at Hollywood Theatre, flowthefilm.com

August—No Chapter Meeting

September—Chapter Meetings Resume

September —Pending Ecuador Implementation Trip

October 10-12—West Coast Regional Workshop, San Luis Obispo, CA

More details at www.ewbportland.org/calendar

Our chapter's activities are funded through donations and sponsorships. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made online at www.ewbportland.org/donate, or can be mailed to EWB-USA, Portland Chapter, P.O. Box 14734, Portland, OR 97293 . Thanks!

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Marilyn Fonseca, marilynfonseca@ewbportland.org