

## **Operations Ingenuity Judges** *(not pictured are Deb Houdeshell, Jorj Long, Jon Meyer):*



### **Christine Radke**

Christine Radke is a Research Program Director for WE&RF's Wastewater and Solids Treatment and Reuse program areas where she manages the resource recovery and nutrients research portfolios. Christine was a Research Project Manager at WE&RF (2005-2007) working on operations optimization and energy, and returned to WE&RF after an eight-year stint at the Water Environment Federation. At WEF, Christine worked with volunteers and staff on technical products, services, and strategies related to the operation, maintenance, and design of wastewater treatment and collection systems. She also took the lead on WEF's Operator Initiative to prepare operations personnel for the utility of the future through education, training, certification, and career pathway needs. Prior to devoting her career to the not-for-profit sector, Christine worked at Black & Veatch as a junior engineer, specifically working on SOPs and construction projects for

water systems, and worked at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control managing industrial and agricultural NPDES and construction permits. Christine has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Environmental Engineering from Manhattan College and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

### **Mike Kyle**

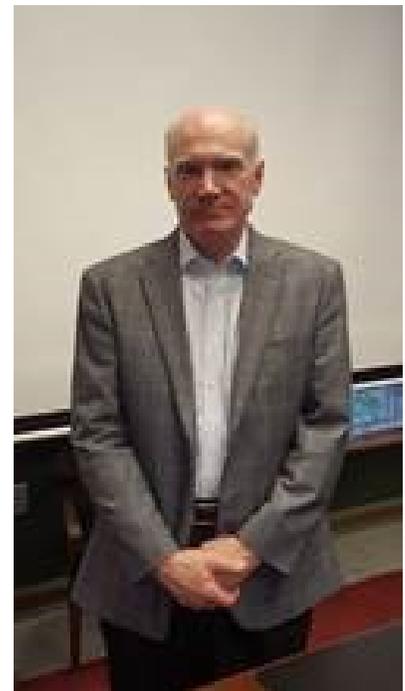
In his 38<sup>th</sup> year in the water environment industry, Mike is currently Executive Director of the Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA), a regional Authority serving 37,000 customers. Prior to LASA he worked at Springettsbury Township for 20 years, having served as Chief Chemist, Industrial Pretreatment Administrator, Assistant Operations Superintendent; Laboratory and Technical Services Superintendent; and Director of Wastewater Treatment.

He is past president of the Central Pennsylvania Water Quality Association and PWEA, and the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA). He served two terms as House Delegate to WEF, one term as PWEA representative and most recently as Delegate at Large. As a Delegate, he chaired several workgroups including Operator of the Future, Operator Outreach, and Innovative Utility Management., which advocated for resource recovery. He also served on the WEF House Steering and Budget Committees and the WEF Nominating Committee, and is currently active on the WEF Utility Management and Constitution Bylaws Committees.

He is Chair of the PWEA Utility Management Committee, Chair of the WEF Operator Advisory Panel, is the WEF Community of Practice Director for Operations and Maintenance, Treasurer for the PA One Call Board, and is a founding member and past Treasurer and Secretary of the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance. He is the longest serving member and past Chair of the State Operator Certification Board.

A graduate of Penn State University with a BS in Medical Technology and Master's Degree in Environmental Pollution Control, Mike has taught courses in water chemistry, operations, laboratory sciences, pretreatment and management, and served as a consultant in pretreatment and biosolids studies. He has published articles for the WEF Water Environment Research and Water Pollution Control Association of Pennsylvania Magazine and Keystone Water Quality Manager.

He has been honored with the PWEA Ted Moses High Hat, the David A. Long Memorial Educational Award, the Walter A. Lyon Purity of Waters Award, and the EPWPCOA Gordon Wiest Clean Streams Award.



Mike lives in Lancaster and enjoys collecting toy trains and riding his Harley, having made it to Sturgis at least once. He has two sons and three grandsons, all with red hair. Mike's one wish is to have (red) hair again.



### **John Hart**

John presently covers Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts as a Field Sales Representative for AR Control Services. In that area John provides customer support and outreach for water, wastewater and industrial facilities.

John recently retired from the City of Saco, ME Water Resource Recovery Department (WRRD) as Deputy Director where he provided oversight of the 4.2 mgd treatment facility operations, stormwater treatment, 29 pumping stations, the collection system, Industrial Pre-Treatment inspections and general oversight of various construction projects. Through his tenure at Saco, the WRRD always strived to be an energy producer rather than an energy consumer through a broad range of initiatives such as wind power, solar collectors, high-efficiency aeration, biosolids reduction, and geothermal energy from wastewater. During his 45 years in the wastewater industry, he has held positions in various municipal and industrial facilities throughout Maine and also as an instructor for the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

A WEF member since 1988, John has held multiple leadership and committee roles within the Water Environment Federation (WEF), an international organization of water quality professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Va. He most recently recently finished his three year term as a member of the Board of Trustees for WEF and had previously served as a Delegate at Large (DAL) on the House of Delegates (HOD) and was a member of several HOD committees and subcommittees as well as the WEF Nomination Committee and HOD Budget Committee. He has also been heavily involved with WEF's Operations Challenge competition as a judge, event writer & coordinator as well as vice-chair, chair and remains as an ongoing member of the event's committee.

John is also an active member of the New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) and the Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA). In the spring of 2013, John retired with 32 years of service from the United States Coast Guard Reserves. During his enlistment, he held numerous qualifications including Pollution Investigator, Waterfront Facility Inspections, Freight and Tank Vessel Inspections, ICS 100-200-300-341-400-700 & 800. He also was involved with the Julie-N Oil Spill (1996) and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (2010). His most recent assignment was his Command Cadre position as the Reserve Command Senior Chief for the USCG encompassing ME, NH, VT and northern NY. Other affiliations include memberships in the local USCG Chief Petty Officer Association Chapter, American Legion Post 35, National Chief Petty Officers Association, Fleet Reserve Association and is presently a volunteer leader, Officer and Instructor for the local Naval Sea Cadet Program. John is a member of the NEWEA Exhibits Committee and is presently on a WEF Steering Committee as WEF develops a new training document for entry level water professionals.

John has received numerous awards of merit including WEF Service Awards for Committee Chair, HOD-DAL and Trustee, WEF Fellow induction in 2014, the WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award in 2006, WEF William D. Hatfield Award in 1999, WEF Quarter Century Club in 2001, NEWEA Clair Sawyer Award in 2014, NEWEA Operator of the Year for Maine in 1999, NEWEA Alfred E. Peloquin Award in 1996, MEWEA President in 1983, Maine DEP Certificate of Achievement in 1995, Maine DEP-JETCC Service Award in 2001 and 2011, USCG Commendation Medal in 2008 and 2013, USCG Achievement Medal in 2001 and 2010, USCG Commandant's Letter of Commendation in 1996, 2003 and 2005, USCG First District (Northeast) Enlisted Reservist of the Year in 1994, USCGAUX Commodore Harlan B. Bruns Award in 2005 and 2009, USCGAUX Flotilla Gold Award in 2004.

John has held a State of Maine Grade V Operator License since 1979, along with holding a NEWEA Collection System Voluntary Grade IV since 1985.

## **Russ Martin**

Russell J. Martin worked at EPA for a bit over 40 years. Russ spent his first years in a field office figuring out how poop plants worked & then he spent time in the Construction Grants Program giving money away to help poop plants work. He was really popular then.

After that, he worked in wastewater treatment compliance assistance helping more than 50 plants improve their performance. POTWs assisted by him won National and/or Regional EPA operation and maintenance excellence awards in all six States in EPA Region 5.

The greatest compliment he ever received from an operator was: “You’re not too bad for being an engineer!”.

Other activities included: sustainable water infrastructure especially asset management, wastewater security, combined sewer overflows and NPDES Permits.

Russ has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

To help build with the help of others, Russ is a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) including participation in the plant operations maintenance committee and ops challenge, designing challenging questions, and a member of Central States. He also designs WEB based training courses for CEUPlan.

He has a wonderful wife he met at EPA & two sons that enjoy fishing. He, as you can see, also cheers on the Cubs who **FINALLY WON THE WORLD SERIES!**

