



## **Paul Grundemann**

An Outstanding Water Professional

Salsa, Suds and Scopes was an informal gathering at a RMWEA Annual Conference a few years ago. The 'salsa' was hors d'oeuvres, the 'suds' were carbonated adult beverages and the 'scopes' was Paul's GPS guided monster of a telescope. He gave everyone a tour of the night sky, directed some stunning views of several celestial bodies, and he did it with great enthusiasm.

Paul Grundemann was the Chair of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council when he suddenly passed away after a brief illness. This was his second tour of duty as Chair and he was one of the original organizers of the Council. As with astronomy, Paul brought his enthusiasm, knowledge and skill to the Council and its many activities. His support of the Council and the work he did on behalf of the Council are key reasons the Council is recognized today as an important and effective organization in Colorado water quality and wastewater issues. Paul's efforts have helped lay down the foundation for the future success of the Council and his leadership and insights on difficult issues will be missed.

Those attending Council meetings will not soon forget the frequent discussions about anti-degradation and nutrient controls at wastewater facilities. Often, when discussions got too intense, you could see Paul sit back to steer an imaginary tractor that was actually located on a 2 ½ acre home site near Delta, where he was planning to retire. Being heavily involved in water supply, also, he was proud to own 2 ½ shares in an irrigation ditch company.

Paul was instrumental in developing two on-going programs sponsored by the Council – a permitting seminar given in all areas of Colorado and the Council's Mentoring Program. Both these programs are intended to provide information and assistance to wastewater operators in Colorado, reflecting Paul's advocacy for water and wastewater operations personnel. Paul's involvement on the operator's certification board was important in the development of the current and very successful program. In addition, he was involved in many training activities for operations personnel, including the Boulder Water and Wastewater Operators Fundamentals School. In the Mentoring Program, Paul and others were successful in assisting Easter Seals Colorado in achieving regulatory compliance at their camp for disabled and special needs children, near Empire, Colorado, without the installation of an expensive mechanical treatment system.

Paul's real job was Director of Operations for the Centennial Water & Sanitation District, located in northern Douglas County. Paul was the first employee hired

by the District and served for 26 years. A long-time water and wastewater professional, Paul also served as a leader on a number of statewide commissions, councils and committees. He was appointed by Governor Bill Owens as a commissioner on the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and was a past chair of the Water Quality Advisory Committee of the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). He was active in many other organizations, including the South Platte Coalition for Urban River Evaluation, the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association, the Colorado Water Utility Council and many others.

Paul Grundemann will be missed by those with whom he worked, the friends he made in this profession and the organizations he was active in. Paul is survived by his wife Theresa, daughter Sarah, son Chris and mother Martha Grundemann, as well as two grandsons.



**Winner at a Toilet Bowl Competition**

## **Paul Grundemann Scholarship Memorial Fund**

I am sure you heard that Paul Grundemann passed away suddenly at the first of the year. All of us who had great respect for him were deeply saddened. He was such an outstanding water professional and friend. Paul's memorial is available on the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council (CWWUC) website if you have not seen it already. <http://cwwuc.org/grundemann.pdf>

Paul's contributions were many. He was always ready to lend a helping hand, especially for smaller facilities. Paul worked tirelessly to help the CWWUC develop a mentoring program for both water and wastewater. He spent many hours of his own time working to assist the facilities that came to the mentoring program with requests for help. It was also very important to Paul to help develop a permitting seminar that has been repeated in various areas around the state to help facilities that otherwise receive limited training opportunities.

Paul's love for helping with mentoring and providing training opportunities will be carried forward with the Paul Grundemann Scholarship Memorial Fund. This fund will be used to provide scholarships for water or wastewater personnel to attend conferences that will further their professional standing. Consideration for receiving the scholarship will be based on need.

We would like to give you the opportunity to remember Paul by contributing toward this fund. Since this donation is going through the CWWUC, your gift is tax deductible. Your help carrying on the memory of our dear friend, Paul Grundemann, is greatly appreciated.

You can remit your check, made out to Paul Grundemann Scholarship Memorial Fund directly to:

CWWUC  
c/o Paul Ferraro  
4 Mourning Dove Lane  
Littleton, CO 80127