



Hole Talk

Fall 2020
Published Quarterly

www.nywelldriller.org

ESWWDA Members,

if you follow our website www.nywelldriller.org or our [Facebook page](#), you will have seen that **the fall meeting scheduled for October has been cancelled** based on the Covid19 restrictions in NYS.

We are in hopes that these restrictions will have been lifted in time for our **annual meeting** at **Turning Stone Casino** scheduled for **January 19-20, 2021**.

Please follow-up on the website and on Facebook. We will try to keep you updated as to the status of that meeting. We will also have more information by the time *Hole Talk* goes to print for the winter issue.

Stay safe and stay well! Sue and Julie 💬

Water Well Contractor Registration and Certification Registration

We thought this might be a good time to go back and refresh everyone's memory regarding the DEC rules and regulations for drilling in NYS; it's been a while and we all tend to get a little lax.

Applications for registration are accepted throughout the year. Registration are effective through March 31st of the following year. Requirements for registration as a Water Well Contractor are:

- Proof of having passed appropriate certification exams as described below.
- Submission of a 2020-2021 [NYS Well Driller Registration Form \(PDF\)](#).
- A check or money order for the \$10 annual registration fee.

Certification Exams

All water well activities must be supervised by a person on-site who is exam certified. To meet **New York State's Certification Requirements (PDF)**, an individual must take and pass two exams (General Drilling Exam and

one additional drilling exam) to be certified for drilling and two exams (Water Systems General Exam and one additional pump exam) to be certified for pump installation and service. Individuals who engage in drilling and pump installation must be certified for both. Registered businesses are responsible for ensuring that all water well drilling activities, including pump installation and servicing, are supervised by an exam certified individual.

Certification exams are administered by the **National Ground Water Association (NGWA)**. Study materials are available by calling NGWA at **1-800-551-7379**. Classroom review courses and additional information is available through the **Empire State Water Well Drillers Association (ESWWDA)** at **1-800-321-2693**. Membership is not required to either participate in the classes or to take the exams through PSI. 💬

Mission

The ESWWDA is committed to taking a leadership role in protecting our natural resources through the promotion of the ground water industry. It strives to support a spirit of cooperation, communication, and education within the industry and with the consumers and regulatory agencies. 💬

Visit www.nywelldriller.org

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The President's Thoughts Short And Sweet



Julie said I didn't have to write very much this quarter, so I'll make it quick. 2020 has continued to be a challenging year in every aspect and keeps coming up with new challenges to make us scratch our heads. COVID continues to be the star of the show. While I think we are all adapting to it, it has changed every aspect of our year from working restrictions and adaptations, supplier issues and most importantly, everyone's vacation schedules. We have had to continually make changes. We recently had another board meeting via Zoom and for the second time this year **Jim Wild** was on a computer! That itself deserves a reward.

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the fall meeting. **The Annual meeting is still on at this point**, although it is yet to be seen what changes will need to be made to adapt to any rules and regulations at that time.

We are now on the hunt for ideas and thoughts for *Hole Talk*, pictures of old rigs, worksite photos, good or bad, big or small we'll take them all. Any ideas you may have feel free to send them our way.

Hopefully everyone is busy. The Hudson Valley has seen a massive inrush of people looking to purchase homes in rural areas. As well as the part-time residences are now full-time residences, and with many working from home, there has been a very steady flow of work. I'm hearing reports all over the state that there is steady work. So if 2020 can do anything, it can at least pay some bills!

Finally, I would like to take a moment to extend my deepest condolences to loved ones we have lost this year. Gone too soon are members who had made great impressions in all of our lives and their memories have now become treasures. We know they're up there flying high and watching over us (hopefully 6 feet apart or wearing a mask!)

President, Tyler Wills 🗨️

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**Professional Standards • Communication
Education • Integrity • Affordability**

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- **Educational programs in:** water well drilling, pump installation, general management.
- **Informative newsletter:** *Hole Talk* covers local, state and national issues and news.
- **Annual Tuition Scholarships**
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- **A voice:** A vote on the direction ESWWDA takes.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

August 2, 2020

1 new member to date in this quarter

CATEGORY	TOTAL	PAID	UNPAID
Contractors	196	163	33
Suppliers/Manufacturers	52	40	12
Associates	92	69	23
	===	===	==
Total Members	340	272	68

All members more than 2 years in arrears are being dropped from the membership listing

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Lyme Disease

It is usually caused by the painless bite of an infected deer tick, and should be considered a year-round threat. A few cases have been caused by biting flies.

The ticks are found on many animals, including household pets that go outdoors. In the spring, the ticks are almost invisible, but they are larger and easier to find in the fall. The majority of Lyme Disease cases have been concentrated in the New England states, New York, Minnesota, and Wisconsin; however, cases have been reported in almost every state.

Prevention

If you spend time outdoors where ticks may be found, you should wear sturdy shoes, long pants tucked into socks, and light-colored clothing with long sleeves. Once indoors, both people and pets should be checked carefully for ticks. Wearing protective clothing treated with Permethrin, an active ingredient against a broad range of pests, including ticks, and using a deet-based repellent on exposed skin, provides the greatest protection against mosquito and tick bites.

Symptoms

Lyme Disease can resemble other illnesses. In the early stages it may be mistaken for flu with symptoms of headache, stiff neck, muscle aches, or fatigue. Within three days to three weeks after being bitten, most people infected will get a rash at the site of the bite or elsewhere. This rash may be circular or oblong, affecting one specific area or numerous areas over the body. The early symptoms often disappear. However, later on, serious health problems can occur without antibiotic treatment. Therefore, if you know you have been bitten by a tick or if you have any one or a combination of the above symptoms, contact your doctor. Treatment generally involves taking an antibiotic.

To Remove a Tick

Grasp tick with fine tweezers, as close to the skin as possible, and gently pull it out. Disinfect the area, your hands, and the tweezers. Don't crush the tick with your fingers. Do not burn or prick it, or suffocate it with petroleum jelly or nail polish. Wrap tick in several tissues and flush it down the toilet.

Additional Information

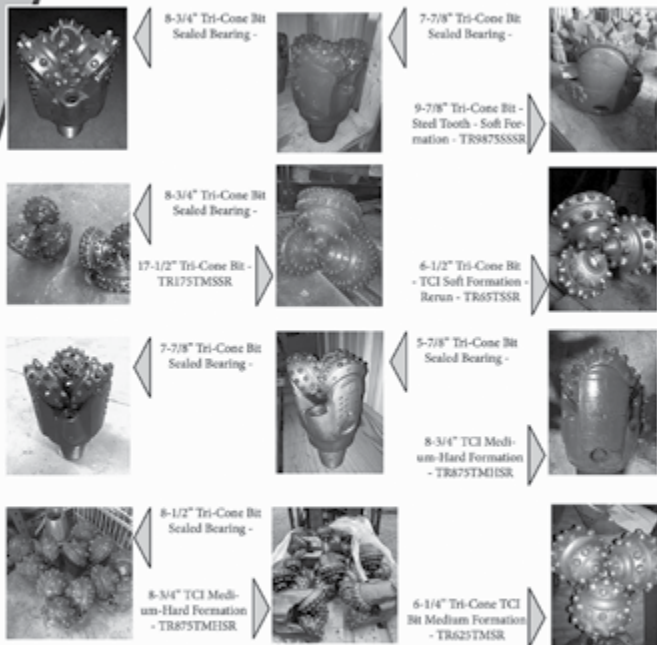
Center for Disease Control, NIOSH: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/lyme

Water Well Journal Article

Hats off to one of our past presidents, **Jeffrey Smith**, *MGWC of Smith Well Drilling* from Kinderhook, NY. He was recently interviewed by Thad Plumley, editor and director of publications at the NGWA. The article was published in the August 2020 issue of the Water Well Journal.

Congratulations Jeff, job well done! 🗨️

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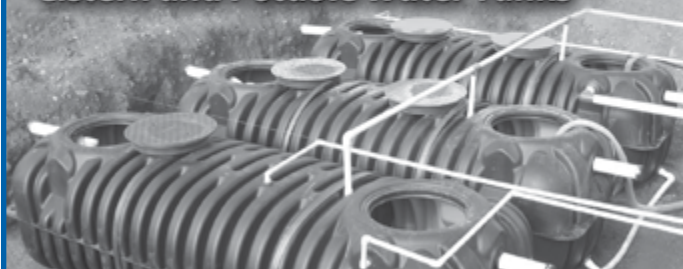
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In keeping with our statement to educate and promote the protection and use of groundwater, the following voluntary program was implemented in 2017.

- The program will be managed and record keeping done by the correspondence manager.
- The program will run concurrent with our membership dues (calendar year).
- Participants must be members of ESWWDA in good standing.
- Participants must be registered with NYSDEC or work for a registered company.
- Approved participants will be issued an Accredited number on their membership card.
- Sign an affidavit established for this voluntary program.
- Must submit five (5) continuing education points as established for this voluntary program, obtained during the year prior to renewal.
- Two (2) of the five (5) points must be from an ESWWDA sponsored event.

Points can be accrued by the following methods:

1. Groundwater related conventions/expositions/meetings – **one point per day.**
2. ESWWDA meeting – **one point per day.**
3. Workshops/training schools – **one point per hour of instruction.**
4. High school career day presentation – **one point per hour of presentation.**
5. Writing an article for a groundwater related publication – **two points max per year.**
6. Presentation for a community service – **one point each presentation.**
7. Participation in groundwater related webinar – **one point per hour instruction.**
8. Presenting an education class or webinar – **one point per hour instruction.**
9. Other acceptance of points will be at the discretion of Accredited Program committee. 

Members can download the voluntary accreditation affidavit and continuing education forms at www.nywelldriller.org or contact Julie@nywelldriller.org.

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Water Well Contractor Program

[ECL §15-1525](#) (leaves DEC website) requires any business conducting water well drilling activities to register annually with DEC before doing business anywhere in New York State. The water well contractor must notify DEC prior to commencement of drilling a water well and file a Water Well Completion Report with DEC upon completion of a water well. A copy of this report must also be provided to the owner of the water well.

Water well standards are determined by the NYS Department of Health (DOH). [Appendix 5-B, Standards for Water Wells](#) (leaves DEC website) contains specifications for location, construction, well yield, pumps, control of flowing wells, separation standards, well decommissioning, and more.

[ECL §15-1502](#) (leaves DEC website) provides definitions of terms included in ECL §15-1525. The enforcement provisions of ECL §15-1525 are provided in [ECL §71-1115](#) (leaves DEC website).

To report an unregistered water well contractor, please visit [Report an Environmental Problem](#).

Consumer Information and Protection


Many New Yorkers rely on wells for drinking water. If you need to have a new water well drilled or an existing well repaired, you should know that consumers are protected under ECL §15-1525. The [DEC Consumer Protection Guide \(PDF\)](#) contains information that you may find useful. The [Water Well Contractor Search Tool](#) will help you find a contractor in your area that is currently registered with DEC.

Several other agencies also have information available to aid consumers. Topics include basic water well construction, water well system components, drilling methods, maintenance and cleaning, water quality and quantity, treatment, and more. See “Links Leaving DEC’s Website” on the right-hand column for additional information for water well contracting and ownership.

More about Water Well Contractor Program:

- [Water Well Contractor Registration and Certification](#)

- How to register as a Water Well Contractor and become an exam-certified individual.

- [Water Well Contractor Reporting Forms](#) - How to obtain Preliminary Notice of Proposed Water Well and Water Well Completion Report forms.
- [Water Well Decommissioning](#) - Proper decommissioning (abandonment) of water wells will prevent contamination of the aquifer via the unused well. These recommendations apply only to potable water supply wells.
- [Flowing Wells](#) - Learn about flowing groundwater wells and the potential harm to the environment they can cause
- [Geothermal Wells](#) - Information regarding the requirements for geothermal well drillers and system installers.
- [Water Well Contractor and Completion Report Record Search](#) - Find a registered water well contractor and basic information on water wells. 

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Drillers Insurance Program

CONTACT: Dawn Rooney

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Working Outdoors in Warm Climates

Hot summer months pose special hazards for outdoor workers who must protect themselves against heat, sun exposure, and other hazards. Employers and employees should know the potential hazards in their workplaces and how to manage them.

Sun

Sunlight contains ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which causes premature aging of the skin, wrinkles, cataracts, and skin cancer. There are no safe UV rays or safe suntans. Be especially careful in the sun if you burn easily, spend a lot of time outdoors, or have any of the following physical features: numerous, irregular, or large moles; freckles; fair skin; or blond, red, or light brown hair. Here's how to block those harmful rays:

- Cover up. Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30. Be sure to follow application directions on the bottle or tube.
- Wear a hat. A wide brim hat, not a baseball cap, works best because it protects the neck, ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp.
- Wear UV-absorbent sunglasses (eye protection). Sunglasses don't have to be expensive, but they should block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation. Before you buy sunglasses, read the product tag or label.
- Limit exposure. UV rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

OSHA Card—Protecting Yourself in the Sun
www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3166.pdf

Heat

The combination of heat and humidity can be a serious health threat during the summer months. If you work outside (for example, at a beach resort, on a farm, at a construction site) or in a kitchen, laundry, or bakery you may be at increased risk for heat-related illness. So, take precautions. Here's how:

- Drink small amounts of water frequently.
- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing—cotton is good.

- Take frequent short breaks in cool shade.
- Eat smaller meals before work activity.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol or large amounts of sugar.
- Work in the shade.
- Find out from your health care provider if your medications and heat don't mix.
- Know that equipment such as respirators or work suits can increase heat stress.

There are three kinds of major heat-related disorders—heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. You need to know how to recognize each one and what first aid treatment is necessary.

OSHA Heat Stress Fact Sheet:

www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/heat_stress.pdf

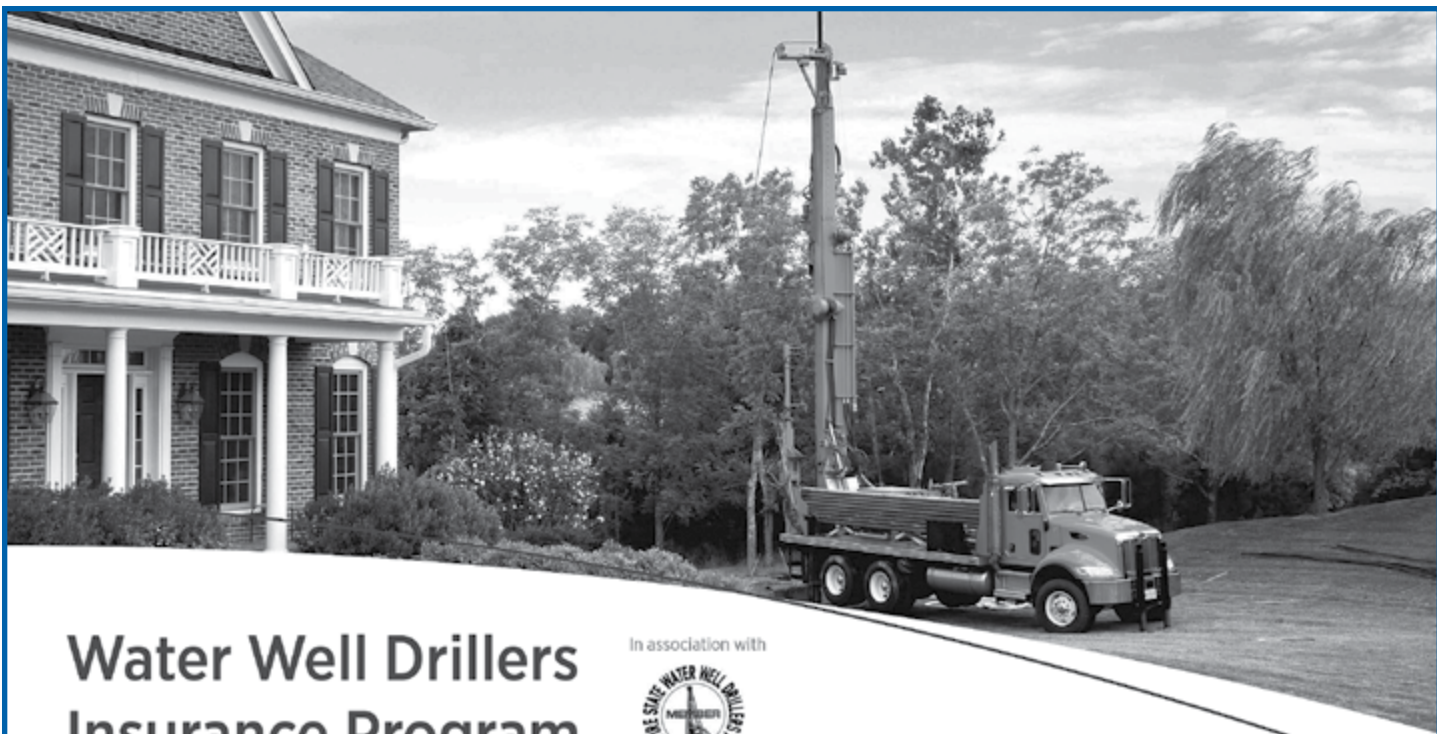
OSHA Heat Stress Quick Card:

www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3154.pdf

Lyme Disease/Tick-Borne Diseases

These illnesses (i.e., Rocky Mountain spotted fever) are transmitted to people by bacteria from bites of infected deer (blacklegged) ticks. In the case of Lyme disease, most, but not all, victims will develop a "bulls-eye" rash. Other signs and symptoms may be non-specific and similar to flu-like symptoms such as fever, lymph node swelling, neck stiffness, generalized fatigue, headaches, migrating joint aches, or muscle aches. You are at increased risk if your work outdoors involves construction, landscaping, forestry, brush clearing, land surveying, farming, railroads, oil fields, utility lines, or park and wildlife management. Protect yourself with these precautions:

- Wear light-colored clothes to see ticks more easily.



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- Wear long sleeves; tuck pant legs into socks or boots.
- Wear high boots or closed shoes that cover your feet completely.
- Wear a hat.
- Use tick repellants, but not on your face.
- Shower after work. Wash and dry your work clothes at high temperature.
- Examine your body for ticks after work. Remove any attached ticks promptly and carefully with fine-tipped tweezers by gripping the tick. Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, or nail polish to remove the tick.

OSHA Lyme Disease Fact Sheet:
www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_LymeFacts/lyme fac.pdf

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mild symptoms include fever, headache, and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands. Symptoms of severe infection include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. You can protect yourself from mosquito bites in these ways:

- Apply Picaridin or insect repellent with DEET to exposed skin.
- Spray clothing with repellents containing DEET or permethrin. (Note: Do not spray permethrin directly onto exposed skin.)
- Wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks.
- Be extra vigilant at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Get rid of sources of standing water (used tires, buckets) to reduce or eliminate mosquito breeding areas.

OSHA West Nile Virus Fact Sheet:
www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/west_nile_virus.pdf

OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin:
 "Workplace Precautions Against West Nile Virus"

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib082903b.pdf>

Poison Ivy-Related Plants

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac have poisonous sap (urushiol) in their roots, stems, leaves and fruits. The urushiol may be deposited on the skin by direct contact with the plant or by contact with contaminated objects, such as clothing, shoes, tools, and animals.

Approximately 85 percent of the general population will develop an allergy if exposed to poison ivy, oak or sumac. Forestry workers and firefighters who battle forest fires have developed rashes or lung irritations from inhaling the smoke of burning plants.

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, tucked into boots. Wear cloth or leather gloves.
- Apply barrier creams to exposed skin.
- Educate workers on the identification of poison ivy, oak, and sumac plants.
- Educate workers on signs and symptoms of contact with poisonous ivy, oak, and sumac.
- Keep rubbing alcohol accessible. It removes the oily resin up to 30 minutes after exposure.

OSHA Web Page—Poisonous Plants:
www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/sawmills/poison.html

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.

For more complete information:



U.S. Department of Labor

www.osha.gov

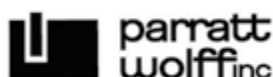
(800) 321-OSHA

DSTM 9/2005



Empire State Water Well Association

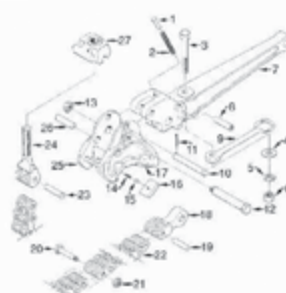
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NOTE: PARTS AND / OR NO. REQ'D. MAY VARY SLIGHTLY
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KEY NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	NO. REQ'D.
1	SPRING GARD	1
2	SPRING	1
3, 4, 5, 6	HANDLER BOX & NUT ASSEMBLY	1
7	HANDLE	1
8	SPRING PIN BUSHING	1
9	HANDLER	1
10, 11	SPRING PIN W/ COTTER	1
12, 13	JAW BOLT & NUT	1
14	INSERT KEY SPRING	4
15	INSERT KEY	4
16	BLANK INSERT	2
17	INSERT	1
18	MASTER LINK	1
19	MASTER LINK CHAIN PIN	1
20, 21	SPRUE BOLT & NUT	24 REQ'D.
22	SPECIAL CHAIN ONLY	1
23	CHAIN SCREW PIN	1
24	CHAIN SCREW	1
25	JOHN	1
26	MASTER LINK HANDLE PIN	1
27	CHAIN SCREW NUT	1

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- 57361412 - Rig Wrench (for T3W / TH60)
- 50024397 - Kmeled Insert
- HD4D - Diamond Point Jaw Insert
- HP903 - Insert Key
- HS205 - Spring
- HB46 - Bolt & Nut
- HD01-45 - Chain Connector Link End
- 151-45-02 - Chain, 2-Link Assembly
- HP215 - Master Link Handle Pin
- HP216 - Chain Screw Pin
- 50021153 - Screw
- HD0T-4 - Lower Jaw Insert
- HD0T-4 - Upper Jaw Insert
- HP217 - Rivet Pin
- 151-45-11D - Complete Chain 4-1/2" to 5-3/8"
- 151-45-15D - Complete Chain 6-1/4" to 7"
- 57519480 - Upper Jaw Insert (Large)
- 57519498 - Teeth Jaw Insert (Small)

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Condolences



Ernest Hempstead of **Gilboa Drilling** passed away on July 25, 2020 at the age of 73 following a long illness. Ernie started his own business, Gilboa Drilling in 1974 and worked until his health failed him in 1992.

Ernie was the cousin of **Walter Wyckoff** of Aqua-Tec Water Services.

Services were private with burial in the Freehold Cemetery.

The ESWWDA sends it condolences to his family.

David S. Byrd, affectionately known as "**Byrdman**" passed away unexpectedly on June 10, 2020 at his home in Camillus, NY. He was an avid guitar player often playing and singing with members at various Empire State Drillers Meetings. He is survived by his wife Jean and his son Brandon and family.



Contributions in his honor can be made to local food banks as David never wanted anyone to go hungry. There were no services.

The life of **Daniel Shultes** was brought full circle when he passed away peacefully in the loving arms of his wife Trista during the early hours of July 7, 2020 after a courageous battle against ALS.

Known as Dan or Danny to his family and friends, Daniel was born on **July 7, 1977** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He grew up in Middleburgh, NY, where he made many lifelong friends who he remained very close with until his passing.

He will live forever in the memories of his wife of 14 years: **Trista (Wyckoff) Shultes** and his loving children: Bray and Reed; his parents: Richard and Patricia Shultes; his siblings: Richard (Brynda) Shultes, Michael (Amber) Shultes, Stephen Shultes, and Christine Noxon; his in-laws: **Walter and Kristen Wyckoff**; his sister in-law: Delana (Dustin) Truesdell; his nieces and nephews: Carlyne and Cameryn Shultes, Delilah, Cecilia, and Claire Shultes, Charles Millard, Benjamin and Edward Noxon, Sylver and Clint Truesdell; his aunts and uncles, cousins, and countless friends.

Danny's family requests that memorial donations be made to either Helios (www.helioscare.org) or I Am ALS (www.iamals.org).



Isabel Skowfoe, May 23, 2002 – July 23, 2020

*We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the entire Skowfoe family on the loss of **Isabel Skowfoe**, age 18, daughter of Dawn and Philip Skowfoe, III and granddaughter of Rebecca and Philip Skowfoe of **Skowfoe Drilling** in Fultonville, NY.*

Services were held at Coltrain Funeral in Middleburgh on July 30, 2020.

Donations in Isabel's name may be made to the **Schoharie Animal Shelter**, PO Box 40m, Howes Cave, NY 12120 or to the **Timothy Murphy Playhouse**, PO Box Middleburgh, NY 12122. 🗣️



Sickness and Health


Continued prayers and well wishes for **Susan Gohr** owner of **Twin Lakes Water Testing & Treatment**. Her newest surgery was to make good on a bad job by a previous surgeon along with her ongoing treatment for breast CA. This has been a long and rough road. *We wish her well this time around.*

We wish **Judi Dempsey** a speedy recovery from her hip surgery and a speedy recovery to **Mike Frey** on his surgery as well.

Prayers and well wishes to all! 🗣️

Scholarship Money Available

As we approach the beginning of another school year, college-bound students and their families are searching for available funds to help offset the cost of further education. The ESWWDA offers a scholarship to applicants whose course of study is **related to the water well industry**. Preference is given to family members of association members and secondly to those attending 2-year programs at an accredited school.

Further information is available by contacting the Scholarship Committee of **Dave Rosick** or **Tyler Wills**. 


Albert H. Mack Scholarship Guidelines

Guidelines for the establishment of the scholarship fund and awarding of scholarship monies for ESWWDA:

A. Scholarship Fund

1. Maximum funds available in one calendar year: \$2,500.
2. One thousand dollars per year to be set aside until the fund reaches \$7,500.

B. Awarding of Scholarships

1. Preference to be given to sons or daughters of association members.
2. Preference to be given to students attending 2-year programs.
3. Scholarships available only to persons whose course of study is related to the water well industry.
4. Persons may make application to the scholarship committee only after acceptance at an accredited school, offering a program related to the water well industry.
5. Funds may be distributed to more than one person in any one calendar year. 

Important Contacts:

NYS DEC: **Beth Guidetti**

(877) 472-2619

NYSWells@gw.dec.state.ny.us

NGWA Main Office:

(800) 551-7379

www.ngwa.org

PSI Exams:

800-733-9267

www.psiexams.com

Water Systems Council:

(202) 625-4387

www.watersystemscouncil.org

American Ground Water Trust

(603) 228-5444

trustinfo@agwt.org

ESWWDA: **Julie Boyd**

(845) 225-3196

Julie@nywelldriller.org

Hole Talk: **Susan Bates**

(315) 339-8960

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Thank you for your support of the ground water industry!

Any ESWWDA member wishing to voice their concern with the contamination of ground water by injection wells should contact:

Dennis McChesney, US EPA Region 2, 290 Broadway, New York, New York 10007-1866

or by phone at 212-637-4232, or by email at mcchesney.dennis@epa.gov



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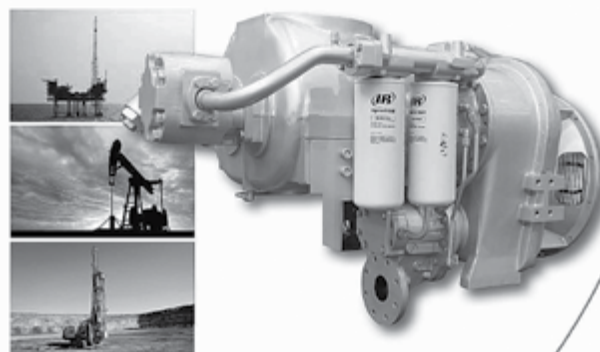
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- Drilling Contractors
- Water System Installers
- Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Engineers & Hydrogeologists
- Contractor Associates
- Student Associates

Send us your events!

To place an item in this calendar, or to submit an article or advertisement, please email julie@nywelldriller.org or sue@nywelldriller.org, no later than **November 1, 2020**, the next **Hole Talk** deadline.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(At the time of this writing the following events are still on our schedule, subject to change)

December 8-10, 2020

NGWA Groundwater Expo

Las Vegas Convention Center

Las Vegas, NV 89109

For registration information go to:

www.ngwa.org

January 19-20, 2021

ESWWDA Annual Meeting

(tentative)

The Lodge at Turning Stone

5218 Patrick Rd., Verona,

NY 13478

Visit www.nywelldriller.org