



# HoleTalk

Fall 2026  
Published Quarterly

[www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)

## ESWWDA FALL MEETING

October 23-24, 2026

**Empire State Water Well Drillers** head to **Warrensburg** for **Fall Meeting & Expo**  
**Cronin's Golf Resort, Warrensburg, New York**

Hosted by **J D's Pump & Drilling Services**, the Empire State Water Well Drillers Association's fall meeting will take place October 23-24 at **Cronin's Golf Resort** in **Warrensburg, New York**. The two-day gathering will bring contractors, suppliers, manufacturers, and groundwater professionals together in the Adirondack region for education, demonstrations, networking, golf, raffles, and fellowship.

A highlight of the meeting will be live drilling demonstrations, including an 8-inch screened well drilled by **Past President Jim Dwyer** with support

from manufacturers and distributors. **Jim Wild** is also expected to drill a 6-inch well with his new **60L rig**, and **Chuck Crover** is expected to attend with his new **Derex dual rotary rig**. A **Foremost rig** and other equipment will also be onsite, giving attendees a close-up look at the tools, techniques, materials, and field decisions used in today's groundwater industry.

The fall meeting will also include association updates, supplier conversations, accommodations, meals, live music, golfing opportunities, and raffle drawings.

A featured raffle item will be a brand-new 6-inch Numa hammer, along with other smaller raffle prizes. Several drilling manufacturers are expected to be represented, including **Foremost, Derex, Borah, Gefco, Reich Drill**, and others.

Manufacturers and suppliers will have tabletop displays available, giving

attendees an opportunity to review products, ask questions, compare equipment options, and connect directly with the companies serving drilling contractors across the region. The meeting will also offer continuing education points and volunteer opportunities for those who would like to help coordinate the event.

**Cronin's Golf Resort**, a longtime Adirondack-area destination, will serve as the host site. Located along the scenic **Hudson River**, the resort features a top-rated 18-hole, 6,161-yard par 70 golf course with views of the **Adirondack Mountains** and the river. Its outdoor setting and meeting-friendly atmosphere make it a fitting location for an industry gathering that combines education, practical field experience, networking, and recreation.

All food for the event will be provided by **Jim and John Cronin and the Cronin family**. Attendees planning to golf or stay overnight are encouraged to reserve their spot and make accommodations as soon as possible by calling or texting **JD's Pump & Drilling** at 518-251-3776.



### 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.

### What's in this Issue

|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Fall Meeting Agenda.....2   | Membership Report/Application. 8, 9 |
| Board of Directors .....2   | Scholarship Reminder .....10        |
| President's Message .....3  | Clip 'n Copy .....15                |
| Meeting Minutes.....4-5     | Bits & Pieces .....21-23            |
| Wetlands Presentation.....7 | Upcoming Events .....24             |

## Fall Meeting Agenda

October 23-24, 2026

Friday, October 23, 2026

7:30 a.m. **Board Meeting**

Coffee & Breakfast onsite

9 a.m. **Drilling Demos** and **vendor tables**

Noon **Lunch** onsite

1 p.m. **Drilling Demos** and **vendor tables**

4 p.m. **General Membership Meeting**

5 p.m. **Dinner** – SPECIAL RAFFLES including  
6-inch Numa Hammer and much more

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8 a.m. **Breakfast** onsite

9 a.m. **Installation of screen and development** 🗨️

ALL Suppliers/Manufacturers interested in having a table  
or display at the meeting, please contact J.D. at 518-251-3776 🗨️

### Directions: Cronin's Golf Resort

Golf Course Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885

**Lodging at Cronin's:** CONTACT **Jim "J.D."** & **Carol direct** about  
lodging available at Cronin's Resort at 518-251-3776

There are limited camping locations and rooms available.

There are other locations nearby. **DO NOT CALL Cronin's directly.**

Thanks!

### Lodging Nearby:

**Warrensburg Inn & Suites**  
5-minute drive to Cronin's  
4046 Main Street, Warrensburg, NY  
518-623-2955

**Super 8 by Windham Lake**  
**George/Warrensburg**  
7-minute drive to Cronin's  
3619 Route 9N, Lake George, NY  
518-504-0831

Interested in playing a game of golf – please talk to JD! 🗨️

## 2026 Officers and Directors

### President

**Chris Root**, CWD/PI, Root Contracting

5540 Wolfspring Road, Scio, NY 14800

(585) 593-4304 • Rootwaterwell@gmail.com

### Vice President

**Jeremy Baldwin**, MGWC, Hawk Drilling Co., Inc.

354 Stone Church Road, Saratoga, NY 12020

(518) 885-7952 • hawkdrilling@aol.com

### Past President

**Dave Rosick**, CWD/PI, Rosick Well Drilling LLC

1175 Farley Road, Hudson Falls, NY 12839

(518) 746-0173 • Rosickdrilling@yahoo.com

### Secretary/Treasurer

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Roarke Well Drilling, Inc.

431 Scotchtown Ave., Goshen, NY 10924

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### ESWWDA Assistant Correspondence Manager

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### 3 – Year Directors

**Brian Frey**, Frey Well Drilling Inc.

(716) 937-7977 • DrillerFrey@aol.com

**James Utter**, Utter Well Drilling

(607) 582-7436 • jimdrilling@yahoo.com

### 2 – Year Directors

**William Frey**, MGWC, Frey Well Drilling Inc.

(716) 937-7977 • DrillerFrey@aol.com

**Richard Tompkins**, Reliable Pump & Well

(845) 629-8301 • reliablepumpandwell@gmail.com

### 1 – Year Directors

**Daniel Boyd**, DNA Well Maintenance

(772) 626-4515 • Daniel.Boyd70@gmail.com

**Zach Barlett**, Bartlett Well Drilling

(315) 331-6900 • zach@bartlettwelldrilling.com

### Supplier Directors

**Bernie Kistner**, Group One Northeast, Inc.

(845) 473-1969 • bckistner@aol.com

**Dave Keough**, Blake Equipment

(845) 258-7867 • Dave.keough@blakeequip.com

**David Dretel**, D&S Pump

(845) 279-3785 • ddretel@dspumps.com

**Christopher Beatson**, Xylem

(585) 469-0069 • christopher.beatson@xylem.com

### Values

The Board of Directors and membership of E.S.W.W.D.A. believe  
in the promotion of the ground water industry through:

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

## The President's Thoughts "Scammers"

### Greetings to all of you,

I would like to begin by making one thing perfectly clear, this is actually me writing this letter, not AI, and certainly not the low-life scammers who have been working overtime lately sending phishing emails to our members.

If you have received an email that appears to be from me asking you to run out and buy gift cards because I "can't get ahold of the treasurer" or some other story, it is NOT me!

Unfortunately, this scam has been around for years, although it has usually been limited to members of the Board of Directors, often impersonating whoever is serving as president. Lately, however, these scammers have become much more convincing. They are using specific names, references, and reaching out directly to random members. I have received numerous phone calls recently from members who were not sure what to believe.

So please remember this: **No one from this association will ever email you asking for money, gift cards, or any other type of financial assistance.** If you receive any such emails, please delete them.

As Mr. T would say, **"Don't be a fool!"**

Moving on, I would like to talk about our Summer Meeting.

A huge thank you goes out to **Ricky Tompkins and the crew** from **Reliable Pump & Well**, along with **Dan and Adrienne Boyd** from **DNA Water Well Maintenance**. They invested a tremendous amount of time and effort into hosting the meeting at **Ricky's shop** in Montgomery, NY.

The meeting was very well attended, and there was plenty to see and do. Members had the opportunity to see everything from cable tool rigs to the latest rotary rigs. You could watch a cable tool being set up and surged, participate in a DOT walk-around with a question-and-answer session, and hydro fracking an old well, or spend time talking with vendors inside. Best of all, everything was packed into a single day, making it informative without taking up an entire weekend.

I know I had a great time, both during the meeting and afterward.

**Thanks again, Ricky, and thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success.**

Now, on to future business.

In my last letter, I discussed the possibility of reducing our



meetings from four each year to two and asked for your feedback. After speaking with many of you and having a productive roundtable discussion during our summer meeting, I believe we have found a reasonable solution.

Rather than requiring a fixed number of meetings each year, I believe the association would benefit from having greater flexibility.

Currently, **Article 6, Section 2** of our bylaw states:

*"At least three other meetings of the membership shall be held each year on a quarterly basis."*

I intend to propose changing that language to something along the lines of:

*"The Board of Directors shall determine the number of membership meetings to be held each year."*

This change would give the Board the flexibility to schedule meetings based on the needs of the Association instead of being locked into a specific number. I believe that flexibility is exactly what we need to move forward.

I plan to present this proposed bylaw amendment to the Board for a vote at the Fall Meeting. If approved, it will then be presented to the membership for a final vote at our January meeting.

I would also like to give everyone a quick update on the revised DEC laws and regulations.

We continue to meet with the DEC and NY-GEO, and progress is being made. We distributed a draft copy at the summer meeting, and we are getting very close to completing the final draft. We expect it to be ready sometime in September, pending all sides' attorney's final review. After that, it will be out of our hands as the proposal moves through Albany.

Finally, I want to say how much I am looking forward to our Fall Meeting at my favorite golf course, **Cronin's**.

Yes, this will be the third meeting we have held there, but each one has had its own unique atmosphere. Every meeting has provided valuable education for our industry while also being enjoyable and entertaining. I am looking forward to another great event and hope to see all of you there.

See you this fall!

**Chris Root**, ESWWDA President

# ESWWDA SUMMER MEETING

## Friday, June 26, 2026

The 2026 summer meeting of the **Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association** was called to order at 2:02 pm by **President Chris Root** with 20 members in attendance. The following officers and directors were in attendance:

*President* **Chris Root**

*Vice President* **Jeremy Baldwin**

*Past President* **Dave Rosick**

*Director* **Jim Utter**

*Director* **Richard Tompkins**

*Director* **Daniel Boyd**

*Director* **Zach Barlett**

*Supplier Director* **Dave Keough**

*Supplier Director* **Christopher Beatson**

*Supplier Director* **David Dretel**

**Adrienne Boyd** and **Dori Burke-Wood** sold the 50/50 tickets. **Dave Rosick** made a motion to wave the reading of the minutes and accept them as printed in **Hole Talk**. **Chris Beatson** seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

The treasurer, **Charles Crover**, had presented the treasurer's report to the Board in the morning. The Board of Directors accepted the report. At this time, we are operating within our means. **Ed Bates** made a motion to accept the President's update. **Jeremy Baldwin** seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**President Root** thanked the membership for attending the meeting. He especially thanked **Reliable Well & Pump**, the **Tompkins family** and crew, and **DNA Water Well Maintenance**, **Dan Boyd family and crew**, for an excellent day of demos. The DOT inspector was quite interesting. Chris updated the membership with a presentation on changes regarding the wetland regulations after a court

decision threw out some changes specifically the unusual importance criteria. Also, **President Root** reviewed with the membership what the possible changes being proposed with the updated DEC regulations for the drilling industry. These changes would include the geothermal industry, possible continuing education and much more. He noted that DEC is seeing that sometimes not one answer fits all situations.

**Communication:** None to report

**Sickness & Health:** Previous member **David Holst** had passed away.

**Insurance & Safety:** No report given at this time.

**Membership:** Sue Bates reported that we have a total of **288 members**. Of that total **228 are current** with their dues and **60 still remain unpaid** for 2026. The rosters will be revised this fall to remove any member with 3 years unpaid dues. Invoicing for 2027 will start in the fall.

**Scholarship:** No report given at this time.

**Government Affairs:** **Sandra Baldwin** reported that they have been working closely with **NYS DEC** and **NY-Geo** on the updated regulations. It has been a revelation for NY-Geo on what we do. An official draft of the regulations hopefully will be out for comment by late summer or early fall. Our industry has taken the stand of being protectors of ground water and the industry.

**NEWWA:** **Henry Boyd** reported that **NEWWA Board** will be meeting in September to begin setting up the **2027 Expo**.

**NGWA/WSC:** The association receives quarterly reports from **WSC** on pending legislation and regulation changes in the United States and New York state. We really find this a useful tool in keeping updated.

**Hole Talk:** It was reported that the deadline for the next issue is **August 1st**. If you have any ad changes, we need them by then. Invoicing for **Hole Talk** ads will be going out in July. Please note the issues now have the option for colored ads throughout.

**Public Information:** Sue Bates asked if the membership could check their listing and reach out to us for any changes.

**DOT:** No report given at this time.

**Continuing Education:** Julie Boyd reported that when membership renewals are sent out is the time to submit your continuing education point for the voluntary accreditation program. If the State decides to include continuing education in the newly proposed regulation changes, some members will already be prepared.

**Geothermal:** No report given at this time.

**Giving Back:** The committee reported that a new applicant has applied.

**Past President:** **Past President Rosick** stated that the drilling community in NY is very lucky to have a supportive association. That there are proposed changes to the number of meetings per year and the number and attendance at meetings might change if the State requires continuing education.

**Old Business:** At this time President Root opened the floor for discussion whether the association would change the required three additional quarterly meeting each year. The Annual Meeting will remain unchanged. There was discussion on the pros and cons to the change. It was pointed out that a slight change in the by-law wording would allow the Board the option of three additional meetings or less.

## ESWWDA Values

As stated by **Past President Rosick**, if continuing education passes, we might have a better draw at meetings. The Board of Directors would continue to meet a minimum of four times a year to conduct association business but could have a Zoom meeting instead of in-person. This discussion was tabled until the fall meeting since any changes to the by-laws will need to be drafted, published to the membership either in *Hole Talk* or a separate mailing and finally voted on at the Annual meeting.

**Carol** and **Jim Dwyer** discussed the layout of the fall meeting which will be held at **Cronin's Golf Course**. We are currently looking for speakers' ideas for the Annual meeting in

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**Education** ◦ **Integrity** ◦ **Affordability**

January. Also, **Hawk Well Drilling** will host the summer meeting of 2027.

**New Business:** If anyone is interested or has ideas for the meeting locations or topics for the spring and fall of 2027, please contact **Julie Boyd**. The membership discussed new spots to generate ideas for meetings and topics. There was discussion regarding the live auction at the Annual meeting. We will be having a professional auctioneer and hope with few set up changes we can control the noise.

The membership was also informed that **Wragg Brother** in CT lost water trucks recently when their shop caught on fire. This was an incredibly sad situation but luckily there were no injuries.

At this time, we drew the winning tickets for the 50/50 drawing and a large screen TV which was donated by **DNA Water Well Maintenance**. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was **Jim Utter** and the TV was **Sarah** from **Reliable Well & Pump**.

At 2:39 p.m. **Jim Dwyer** made a motion to close the meeting. **Ricky Tompkins** seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted by:  
**Julie Boyd** 🗨️

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# Summary of the NYS DEC Wetlands Presentation

## on June 20, 2026

The best summary of the information is on our website. The [Freshwater Wetlands Program page](#) has the information on what's jurisdictional currently as the excerpt below states:

**“For a wetland to be eligible for protection under the Freshwater Wetlands Act, it must meet one of the following criteria:**

- It must be 12.4 acres (5 hectares) in size or greater. As of January 1, 2028, the threshold will decrease to 7.4 acres (3 hectares). Two or more wetlands may be considered a single wetland if they are hydrologically connected and separated by no more than 50 meters.
- It is a Previously Mapped Freshwater Wetland, mapped by the department before January 1, 2025.
- It was mapped by the department as a wetland of Unusual Local Importance before January 1, 2025
- To ensure the functions and benefits of jurisdictional wetlands are preserved, a 100-foot adjacent area is protected to maintain protective buffers.”

The [Jurisdictional Determination page](#) explains the jurisdictional determination process and links to surveys

to submit a jurisdictional determination request and a reassessment request if one is needed.

Another good resource for your membership is the [Freshwater Wetlands General Permit, GP-0-25-003](#) which lists “water wells” specifically in the authorized activities.

If you would like to watch the presentation, please go to [Freshwater Wetlands Regulations Update June 2026](#) located at the bottom of the Jurisdictional Determination page.

**Any questions should be directed toward the regional DEC contact:**

- **Region 1** (Nassau and Suffolk Counties) - [R1BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R1BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 2** (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond Counties) - [R2BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R2BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 3** (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties) - [R3.BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R3.BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 4** (Albany, Columbia, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Schoharie Counties) - [R4BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R4BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 5** (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington Counties) - [R5BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R5BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 6** (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and St. Lawrence Counties) - [R6BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R6BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 7** (Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties) - [R7BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R7BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 8** (Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates Counties) - [R8BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R8BEH@dec.ny.gov)
- **Region 9** (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, and Wyoming Counties) - [R9BEH@dec.ny.gov](mailto:R9BEH@dec.ny.gov)



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Kevin Moravec 315-536-3911  
Ricky Tompkins 845-629-8301  
Zach Bartlett 315-331-6900

### Education

Chairperson Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Jeremy Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Sandra Baldwin 518-396-9499  
Zach Bartlett 315-331-6900

### Membership

Chairperson Sue Bates 315-339-9060  
William Frey 716-937-7977  
Chris Root 585-593-4309

### Insurance/ Safety

Chairperson Jack Ralbovsky 518-533-6850  
William Frey 716-937-7977  
Chuck Crover 845-783-9355

### Government Affairs

Chairperson Sandra Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Jeff Smith 518-758-6142  
Tyler Wills 518-758-6142  
All Board of Directors

### NEWWA

Chairperson Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Julie Bullock 845-225-3196  
Alt. Dan Boyd 772-626-4515  
James Utter 607-351-1002

### Liaisons to NGWA/WSC

Chairperson TBD  
Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Dave Keough 845-258-7867  
Zach Bartlett 315-331-6900  
Richard Moravec 315-536-3911

### Budget & Finance

Chairperson Tyler Wills 518-758-6142  
Chuck Crover 845-783-9355  
Bernie Kistner 845-473-1969  
Jack Ralbovsky 518-533-6850

### Hole Talk

Chairperson Julie Bullock 845-225-3196  
Sue Bates 315-339-8960

### By-Laws

Chairperson Tony Ferraioli 518-861-8733  
Henry Boyd 845-225-3196

### Environment

Chairperson Henry Boyd 845-225-3196  
Daniel Boyd 772-626-4515

### DOT

Chairperson Jeremy Baldwin 518-885-7952  
Daniel Boyd 772-626-4515  
William Frey 716-937-7977

### Geothermal

Chairperson Kevin Moravec 315-536-3911  
Tyler Wills 518-758-6142  
Jeremy Baldwin 518-885-7952

### Giving Back

Chairperson Jim Utter 607-582-7436  
Richard Tompkins 845-629-8301  
Zach Bartlett 315-331-6900  
Brian Frey 716-937-7977

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### July 2026

| CATEGORY                | TOTAL      | PAID       | UNPAID    |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Contractors             | 162        | 133        | 29        |
| Suppliers/Manufacturers | 54         | 40         | 14        |
| Associates              | 74         | 57         | 17        |
| =====                   |            |            |           |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>290</b> | <b>230</b> | <b>60</b> |

*Members in arrears for 2+ years  
will be dropped from active membership*

*Payments may be made by mailing checks to:  
ESWWDA, 1054 Route 52, Carmel, NY 10512*

*or PayPal at [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)*

**There were 3 new members  
in the second quarter of 2026**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### CONTRACTORS

*Hennessey Plumbing, INC.*

**Derek Hennessey**

Southhold, NY 11971

*Sponsor: Website*

### SUPPLIERS

*A-Plus Drilling Supply*

**Dolan Anderson**

Middleburg, PA 17842

*Sponsor: Website*

*Driller DB*

**Craig Vander Galien**

Chicago, IL 60608

**"Support the Suppliers  
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## ESWWDA & You ... A Smart Alliance

The industry is in an era of change. To understand the changes taking place and to lead the industry through its transitions, drillers need to access the best minds available - each other.

That's why your affiliation with the ESWWDA is a smart investment. It's an alliance of individual drillers that work for you and with you.

Your membership gives you access to programs and services specifically formulated for the professional growth and success of water well drillers and pump installers.



### The association provides:

- **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**
- **A united voice:** ESWWDA speaks for drillers on issues of far-reaching impact.
- **A voice:** A vote on the direction ESWWDA takes.

Join or renew your membership and keep this powerful alliance alive! 

## ESWWDA

Membership Application **Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association** • Organized 1941

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor/Driller ..... \$250

NGWA Member Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Pump Installer ..... \$250

MGWC/CWD/CPI # \_\_\_\_\_

Supplier/Manufacturer ..... \$250

NYS DEC Reg # \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Company Member .....\$50

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Retired Member .....\$50

(Who were self-employed with no employees)

**Dues are NOT Tax Deductible**

Mail application to: **Susan Bates, 900 N James Street, Rome, NY 13440** (Checks payable to: **ESWWDA**)

Or visit our website at [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org) to join.

# SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

As fall approaches and school begins for another year, we'd like to remind our membership that we have 2 scholarship opportunities available to the children of our members.

## The Albert H. Mack Scholarship

Preference is given to the children of association members in good standing.

Preference is given to students who will be attending a 2-year program and whose course of study is related to the water well industry.

Applications may be submitted to the scholarship committee only after acceptance into an accredited school as well as pursuing a degree in a water well related program.

Funds may be distributed to more than one person in any one calendar year.

## The Daniel M. Shultes Scholarship

This scholarship is a one-time award given to children of members with full contractor status. The student may be attending a school where the course of study is outside of the water well industry and is not covered under the **Al Mack Scholarship**.

Preference is given to those attending a minimum of a 2-year program

Application may be submitted only after acceptance into an accredited school and prior to the **April 1st deadline**. Applicants are selected via a blind selection process.

The number of scholarships and the dollar amount are at the discretion of the committee.

Total of all scholarships cannot exceed \$1000 per calendar year.

Scholarship applications may be found on our website [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org) by clicking on **Resources** then **Document Center**. Or you may contact me at (315) 225-3060 or [gramsue67@gmail.com](mailto:gramsue67@gmail.com) and I'll be happy to mail one out to you. 🗉



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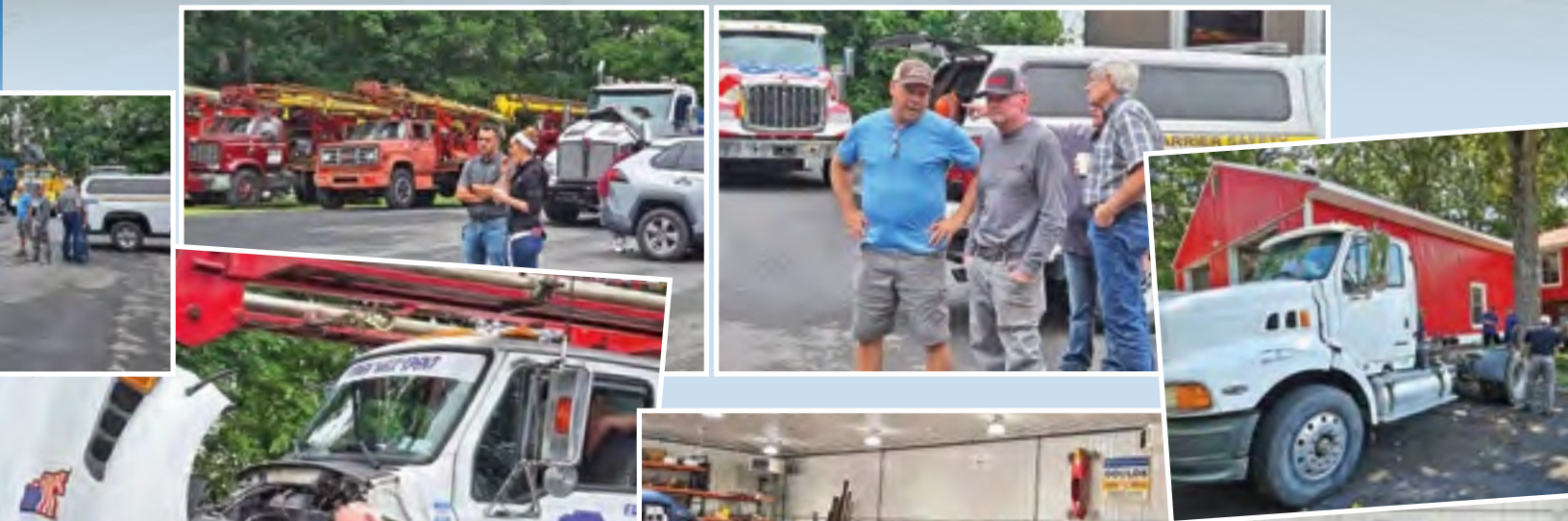


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# Say 'Aye' to Eye Protection

From NGWA Safety Facts Sheets

*In these days of rising prices*, there is still one bargain to be found – eye protection. A relatively few dollars buys the safety equipment that can protect your eyes from such on-the-job hazards as dust, glare, and flying objects. But, while such protective equipment as safety goggles, glasses, and face shields is easily affordable, eye injury or loss is expensive to many – to the victim of the accident, the company that employs him, and even to the general public.

The comparative cost of eye protection is small. After all, how much is an eye worth? However, I'm sure that many eye injuries are not the result of lack of protection. Rather, they result from not using the eye protection provided. This protection is not used due to many feeble excuses – none of which is legitimate.

The highest price for on-the-job eye accidents is paid by the victim of such an accident. First, he must endure certain financial setbacks. During his recuperation, Workmen's Compensation would only pay him a percentage of his weekly wage.

This probably wouldn't allow him to support himself and his family at their accustomed standard of living. He might have to move into cheaper housing, cut back on food and other items, or become hopelessly behind on time payments.

If a man is unfortunate enough to lose the sight of an eye, he may not have a job to come back to. Many jobs are just too detailed for a man with only one eye to handle. In this case, he would lose his potential earnings on that job from the time of the accident until his retirement, which could amount to several hundred thousand dollars, depending on his age and income.

Weekly compensation payments can do little to console the injured worker. He has lost his occupation and all its

potential earning power and must begin all over again to build an occupational future to insure financial security for himself and his family.

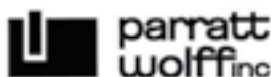
Perhaps the steepest price the victim of an eye accident must pay is the personal suffering. The pain and shock he must endure cannot be calculated in terms of dollars and cents. If he loses the sight of both eyes, he has lost a whole way of life – a way of perceiving beauty, of self-sufficiency and independence, all of which are priceless. That's the price that you, the employee, must pay.

The company, in addition to accident cost setbacks, must be concerned about the affect of the accident on employee morale. If one employee suffers an eye injury, the rest of the employees may become jittery to a point where more accidents will follow. Also, they may not feel like working up to their full capacity, which would result in lower production levels.

Finally, an eye accident can be costly to you as a taxpayer. The victim may have to use public-supported rehabilitation facilities, and if he is unable to find a job because of permanent total disability, he may wind up on welfare. Also, since many companies figure accident costs into the price of their product or service, a large amount of the cost of an eye injury is passed on to the consumer which again hits you as a wage earner.

Thus, an unprotected eye can be a painful and expensive proposition to the victim, to the employer, and to society. So, wear eye protection. An unguarded moment may result in tragedy. And what would make it even more tragic is if the accident occurred while ample eye protection was resting on the victim's forehead instead of over his eyes. 🗨️

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**Tracy E. Wronoski**

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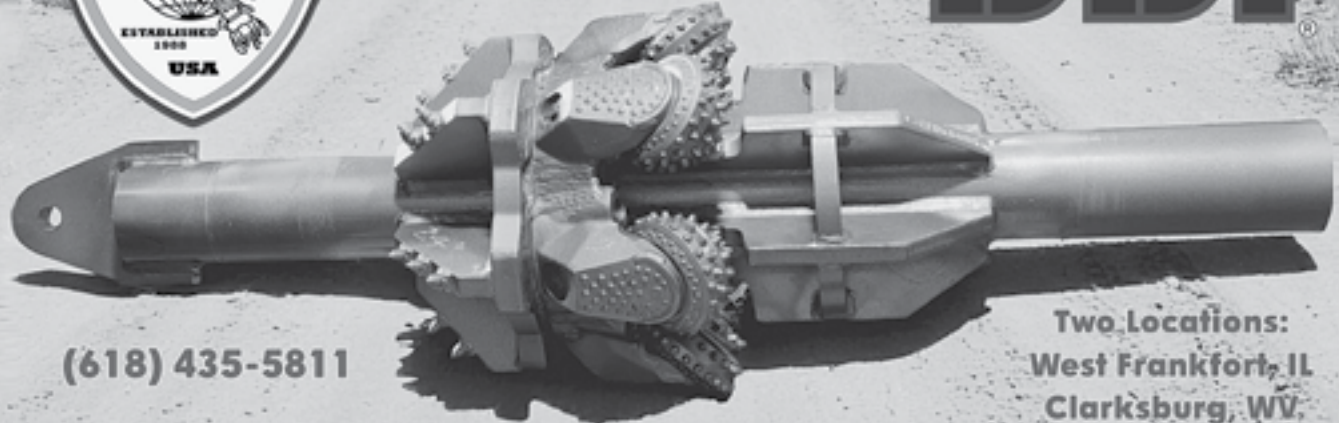
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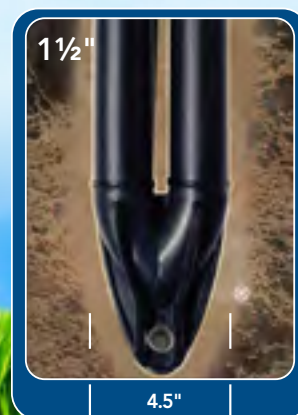
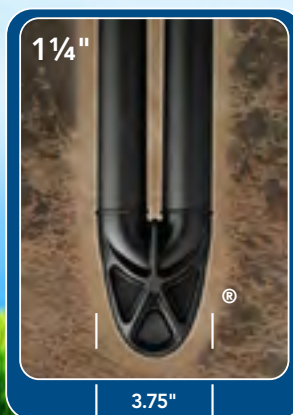
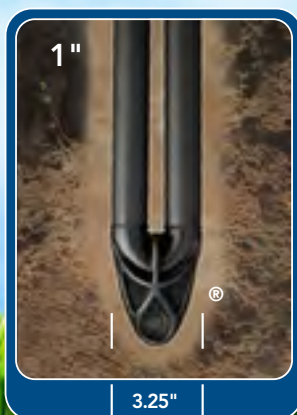
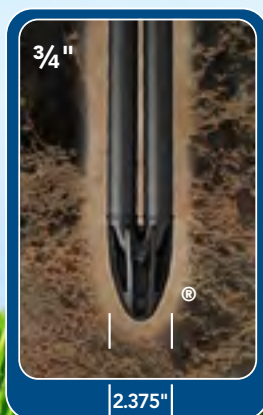
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As you may have noticed, you are now seeing many of your ads currently being printed in color. Enclosed with your invoice for the **upcoming advertising cycle which runs from the fall 2026 issue through the summer 2027 issue**, you were given the option of forwarding an updated color ad for publication in *Hole Talk* going forward. The invoice also noted the increase in cost which only amounted to 20% for all four (4) issues. Pricing is as follows:

| Ad size                   | Black/White   | Color         |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
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| <b>¼ page</b> .....       | <b>500</b>    | <b>600</b>    |
| <b>½ page</b> .....       | <b>1,000</b>  | <b>1,200</b>  |
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For anyone who'd like their company's ad to run in color all you need to do is forward a camera ready ad and we'll update it for you in the next published issue. I will bill you the difference. Just email the update to: [gramsue67@gmail.com](mailto:gramsue67@gmail.com).

We have received many, many compliments on *Hole Talk* over the years and after looking at how great the last issue looked, the more color the better!! We have a reputation of having the best newsletter in the industry, let's keep it going!!!!

## Giving Back.....

Special thank you to the following to **Caster Well Drilling and Water Conditioning** for **drilling a well and installing a pump for Veteran Sean Gallagher**.

*More details to follow in the next issue.*



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## Condolence Corner



The membership of the Empire State Water Well Drillers' Association would like to convey their deepest sympathies to the family of Jeff and Patty Smith on the passing on Jeff's dad, **Arthur G. Smith** on June 22nd.

Art retired from **Niagara Mohawk** after 30 years and then joined his son Jeff at **Smith Well Drilling** in Kinderhook, NY where he "helped out" for another 30 years. He was a 73-year member of the Masonic lodge of NYS and served several terms as Lodge Master.

He is survived by his son **Jeffrey** and family, daughter **Sandra** and family and daughter **Sheryl** and family as well as 4 sisters **MaryAnn**, Maude, **Nancy** and **Joan** and their families. He also leaves behind 9 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Art's wife of 70 years predeceased him.

For those who remember attending the spring show in **Marlborough** in the early 2000's, **Art** and **Lorraine** were always in attendance and enjoyed the camaraderie driller families.

Services were private and at the convenience of the family.



We at the ESWWDA would like to acknowledge the passing of **David Holst** from **Amboy, NY**. Dave was the owner and operator of **Holst Well Drilling** from 1969 until his retirement and was a longtime member of the ESWWDA as well as the NGWA.

Dave is survived by his wife **Patti**, his 4 children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, one brother and one sister along with several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held on June 6th at 11am at **Buck's Family Restaurant** in Williamstown, NY. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for **donations for David's grandson, David Levi Holst**, who has gone through a number of heart surgeries and is facing yet another surgery to replace artificial parts and to repair other sections of the heart. Donations can be made by contacting Patti. Contact information may be obtained by calling the **LaRobardiere Funeral Home** in Camden, NY.

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*Thank you for your support of the ground water industry and ESWWDA!*

## "Support the Suppliers Who Support You"

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

Ms. Nicole Kraft, EPA Section Chief at  
(212) 637-3093 or [NicoleKraft@EPA.com](mailto:NicoleKraft@EPA.com). 

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### Important Contacts:

#### DEC Numbers

NYS DEC Water Well Contractor Program: **Beth Guidetti**  
(877) 472-2619  
[NYSWells@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:NYSWells@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

#### General permitting questions:

Bureau of Energy Project Management, Division of Environmental Permits  
[DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov](mailto:DEPEnergy@dec.ny.gov)

#### SPDES permitting questions:

Bureau of Water Permits, Division of Water  
[SPDESGeothermal@dec.ny.gov](mailto:SPDESGeothermal@dec.ny.gov)

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# 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 Chairperson, Jim Utter**.

## 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.
6. Scholarship funds are released upon acknowledgment of grades.

## Daniel M. Shultes Scholarship Fund Guidelines

*This scholarship is a one-time award to children of Contractor members in good standing who are attending college in a field of study outside the industry or areas not covered by the Al Mack Scholarship.*

### Awarding of Scholarships

- Preference to be given to children of Full Contractor members
- Preference to be given to students attending minimum of a 2-year program
- Persons may make applications to the scholarship committee only after acceptance at an accredited school.
- Funds may be distributed to more than one person in any one calendar year.
- Application deadline is April 1st of each year.

- Applicants are selected via a blind selection process.
- The number of scholarships and the amount of the scholarship are at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and cannot exceed a total of \$1000 per calendar year.
- Scholarship funds are released upon acknowledgment of grades.

For more information contact the scholarship committee or go on our website at **[www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)**

## Updated ESWWDA Hole Talk Ad Rates

**We are now able to have our ads in color as well as in b/w. Rates are as follows:**

| Ad size       | Black/White | Color |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Business Card | \$ 200      | \$240 |
| ¼ page        | 500         | 600   |
| ½ page        | 1000        | 1200  |
| Full page     | 1500        | 1800  |

*The pricing as for 4 issues per year, Fall 2026 – Summer 2027*

Please call **Susan Bates** at (315) 225-3060 if you have any questions, or email your advertisement to: **[gramsue67@gmail.com](mailto:gramsue67@gmail.com)**.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2026 WSC Members' Meeting and WWT Fundraiser

Dates: **October 13-15, 2026**

Location: **La Cantera Resort**, San Antonio, TX

For details: [www.watersystemscouncil.org](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org)

### ESWWDA Fall Meeting & Table Top Display

Dates: **October 23-24, 2026**

Location: **Cronin's Golf Course** Warrensburg, NY

Agenda and contact information is on page 2

### NGWA Groundwater Week

**December 8-10, 2026**

Location: **Las Vegas, NV**

Details to follow at [www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org)

### ESWWDA Annual Meeting and Trade Show

Dates: **January 19-20, 2027**

Location: **Turning Stone Resort and Casino**,  
Vernon, NY

Agenda to follow

### NEWWA Expo

Dates: **March 12-13, 2027**

Location: **Best Western Hotel & Trade Hall**,  
Marlborough, MA

### ESWWDA Spring Meeting

TBD

### ESWWDA Summer Meeting

Dates: **July 16-17, 2027**

Hosted by **Hawk Drilling Co.** celebrating  
100th year anniversary

Location: **Ballston Lake, NY**

Details to follow

**Visit [www.nywelldriller.org](http://www.nywelldriller.org)**