

Water Committee Report - Nov. 3, 2009

Homeowners Septic Workshop

The Homeowners Septic Workshop was held Oct. 17th at the Beaver Creek Baptist Church. There were about 80 people in attendance. About 10 registrants did not show up, but 11 non-registrants took their place. The church could hold 120, but we were shooting for 100 so it wouldn't be overly crowded.

The presentation was given by three AzOWRA members, Lowell Fagen, Suzanne Ehrlich (who is also with the County Environmental Unit) and Brian Bishop. There was also a couple of tables of demonstration materials illustrating some of the types of system parts available on the market and how they work. During a brief intermission half way through the presentation, people could review these materials and ask questions of the presenters.

The church proved a wonderful venue as they have their own overhead projector for Powerpoint presentations, microphones, podium, comfortable seating and the additional room off the side for the displays. Brendan (last name?) from the church did a wonderful job in setting up the Powerpoint presentation. He actually loaded it the day before and did a run through to make sure everything worked. I'd like to thank the Beaver Creek Baptist Church for being so helpful.

I was surprised that more people in our community did not avail themselves of this free program. We had a number of people from Big Park join us and Dorothy O'Brien took a number of booklets because she felt their people would be very interested in the program. Those that did attend said they felt it was a good program and thought the booklets had a lot of good info, especially the contact numbers.

I want to thank the Kiwanis and especially Janet Aniol for providing the refreshments. And Nancy Rowland who not only acted as our greeter, but brought along some homemade goodies for the refreshment table. And of course Karin Krippene from the Lake Montezuma Property Owners Association who did a lot of the publicity work and organization for the day.

I would also really like to thank Geoff Alson. He videotaped the program for us. Unfortunately, there seems to be some problems in that AzOWRA insists that the taping be approved by them before we can distribute as DVDs. The AzOWRA media rep sent a rather terse letter - "AzOWRA needs to determine if the video is good enough to promote our efforts... Please DO NOT distribute any video copies of the program until Lowell determines it is OK." Geoff was rather upset about this and I don't blame him. It made it sound as if they questioned his abilities. I contacted Lowell about this and he assured me it wasn't Geoff's professionalism they questioned but their own competency when using the mic. He sent a nice note to Geoff. I hope this resolves and we can get a DVD for purposes of loaning out.

In the future, this sort of event might be something that we could coordinate with Big Park and Cornville Associations. They seemed to have a lot of interest.

Project Wet Verde Valley Water Festival 2009

On October 22, Karin Krippene and I also participated in this year's Project Wet Festival for the 4th Graders of the Verde Valley. Again it was held at Dead Horse State Park down by the lagoons. This is really a wonderful place to hold the festival as it has lots of trees, ramadas, bathroom facilities, parking, etc. This year approximately 335 students from Valley area schools participated. Unfortunately, Camp Verde still did not take advantage of this wonderful educational activity.

It all went off without a hitch. Chris Moran (Supervisor Davis' assistant) did a wonderful job again of organizing the event and many of the same volunteers came out again. All the kids seemed to have a great time. They will follow up in their classrooms with more lessons on water and conservation. Project Wet provides these lesson plans.

The good news is that the Verde Valley Program is actually in the black financially and will have funds available for planning next year's festival. A thank you lunch is being held Nov. 5th for all the volunteers.