

Lights, camera, action!

USDA makes training video
at the South Broward Plant

BY SEAN LEONARD

The Wheelabrator South Broward waste-to-energy plant was recently used as the set for an instructional video produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The video, filmed by the USDA's Maryland-based Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Plant Protection and Quarantine Veterinary Support Group (APHIS/PPQ), is an update of a 1999 training video called "No Free Ride."

"We inspect all plants, agricultural products and animals coming into the country, including Canada and U.S. territories," said Dr. Terry Morris, a veterinary medical officer with the USDA/APHIS/PPQ. "We did visit Wheelabrator's beautiful facility in South Broward in November and proceeded to film the facility as workers engaged in their regular, normal practices of receiving vehicles on the tipping floor and operating the claw coming down into the hoppers. The video is a



Wheelabrator's Rick Mulhorn is senior plant engineer.

See VIDEO Page 7

LEAD ROLE FOR WHEELABRATOR

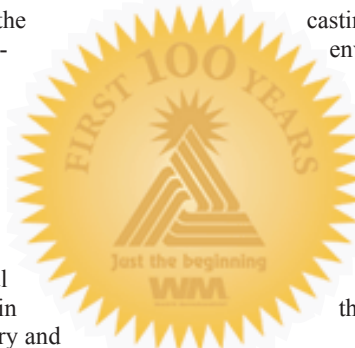


Wheelabrator sponsored the Leadership Broward Adult and Youth tours at the South Broward plant in November. Becky Irwin of Habitat for Humanity of Broward and Malena Mendez both attended the event, enjoying a plant tour and a complimentary lunch.

100 years and counting

Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., the U.S. pioneer for municipal waste-to-energy technology, is observing its 100th year of environmental achievement and innovation by looking forward to the next 100 years of continued excellence and leadership.

The company's accomplishments span a century of establishing global standards for design and efficiency in materials handling, industrial foundry and



castings, dust control, worker safety, and environmental control.

"On behalf of our 100-year heritage of excellence and innovation, this celebration marks the beginning of an even more exciting future for Wheelabrator," said Mark A. Weidman, president. "We're deeply proud of the inventive, landmark environmental achievements of our predecessors and equally enthusiastic about the potential for even more challenging

See 100 YEARS Page 6

Wheelabrator Broward News

A PUBLICATION OF:

Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc.
www.wheelabratortechologies.com

Chris Carey

Regional Vice President

Scott McIlvaine

Plant Manager North Broward

Wheelabrator North Broward, Inc.

2600 Northwest 48th
Pompano Beach, FL 33073
Tel. 954-971-8701

Jairaj Gosine

Plant Manager South Broward

Wheelabrator South Broward, Inc.

4400 South State Rd. 7
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
Tel. 954-581-6606

Send your story idea to:

Sally Alvarez
4400 South State Rd. 7
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
Tel. 954-581-6606
e-mail: salvarez@wm.com



PRODUCED BY:

GRANT COMMUNICATIONS
CONSULTING GROUP

Boston/New York
781-598-8200
e-mail: gccg@grantgroup.com



Scott McIlvaine



Jairaj Gosine

We care about community

As we prepare to welcome spring, we eagerly anticipate the Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education, to be held in Sunrise May 4-6. This is the 15th anniversary of the symposium, and the third year that Broward County has served as host. I commend all of the students who have dedicated many hours addressing important environmental issues. Best of luck to the four middle schools representing Broward County,

and welcome to first-year participants from McNichol Middle School. I am confident in all of your abilities.

Community relations is an integral part of our mission at Wheelabrator, and always has been. Linda Sapienza, director of community relations for Wheelabrator, has been providing support to the schools and organizations in Broward County since the plant's inception. Linda plays an invaluable role in our efforts and I congratulate her on her newest

venture, serving on the board of directors of SOS Children's Villages Florida. I invite you to read more in this edition about the important things SOS is doing for Florida's youth.

Thank you all for your interest in Wheelabrator Broward and I remind you that our doors are always open.

Scott McIlvaine is plant manager of Wheelabrator North Broward.

Wheelabrator: yes we can

Welcome to the first edition of *Wheelabrator Broward News* of 2009.

This year ushered in new economic challenges for our country, coupled with new leadership and hope. At Wheelabrator, we are embracing the "yes we can" motto and looking forward to another year of continued excellence and leadership.

Already, we at the South Broward plant are proving that commitment to you. A few months ago, our facility was chosen to serve as the location for an instructional video produced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This was an honor for us and a tribute to the high standards our company maintains.

Company-wide, Wheelabrator's vice

“
At Wheelabrator, we are embracing the “yes we can” motto and looking forward to another year of continued excellence and leadership.

president of technical services has been recognized by the Waste-to-Energy Research & Technology Council at Columbia University for outstanding industry contributions. Additionally, Wheelabrator's facilities have been

honored by the Wildlife Habitat Council for their green initiatives and wildlife habitats.

I look forward to the remainder of the year and I am excited to be continuing my involvement on the board of the Davie/Cooper City Chamber of Commerce. It means a great deal to be serving all of you and reinforcing our plant's role as an involved corporate partner to the community. I thank you all for your support.

Jairaj Gosine is plant manager of Wheelabrator South Broward.

Convert or recycle your old television

With the upcoming analog-to-digital conversion on June 12, 2009, electronics retailers are expecting a surge in television sales. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are an estimated 99.1 million unused televisions already in household storage awaiting disposal and tons more working televisions expected to be discarded as part of the transition.

“It has become very important that every household know how to properly dispose of old televisions. They contain valuable parts that can be recycled, as well as potentially toxic materials that need to be safely managed to protect the environment,” said Phil Bresee, Broward County's recycling program manager.

For residents in doubt about whether their television will be operative or not, Broward County's Video Central has informative videos that can help consumers know what to do and how to get ready. The videos are offered on demand, under the Community tab at www.broward.org/video.

If residents currently receive free over-the-air television by using a roof or rabbit-ears antenna, a digital converter will be needed to view digital television programming. Residents who subscribe to paid providers from cable or satellite companies are not affected. If you have an analog TV and receive free broadcasts using rabbit ears or a roof antenna, the EPA is encouraging consumers to extend the life of

that TV by purchasing a digital converter box.

To help defray the cost of the digital converter, each U.S. household can request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of eligible converter boxes. For more information on the coupon program visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009. Converter boxes are available in local electronic stores.

For residents who will purchase a new television and then be faced with discarding their old one, Broward County offers four convenient locations (listed below) where residents can bring old televisions and other end-of-life electronics and recycle them safely and for free.

“By doing this, residents will help keep potentially harmful materials out of the waste stream,” Bresee said. “For example, the cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in computer monitors, television sets and other video-display devices contain lead. Televisions alone can contain four to eight pounds of lead, which is there to protect you from radiation while it's still in the TV, but can leach out if a TV is crushed. Mercury, chromium and cadmium are other potentially toxic substances found in electronics that need to be recycled or disposed of safely.”

By recycling your old television, you will also be contributing to local recycling efforts. Electronic products also contain valuable

resources such as copper, gold and nickel, and glass, all of which require energy to mine and manufacture. Reusing and recycling these materials from end-of-life electronics conserves natural resources and avoids air and water pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions caused by manufacturing new products.

Reducing the amount of electronics to be discarded is another way to help the environment. The transition to digital TV does not necessarily mean you have to purchase a new TV. You will not be affected by the transition if you own a television with a digital tuner or subscribe to a TV service such as cable or satellite.

Broward County Waste and Recycling Services offers four locations where you can drop off used electronics for free. They are for residential use only:

- Sunrise: ARC Broward, 10250 N.W. 53rd St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Pompano Beach: 2780 N. Powerline Road, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- West Park: 5601 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Davie: 5490 Reese Road, Saturdays only, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

If you are a small business that needs to dispose of electronics, call ARC Broward at 954-746-9400. For additional information, call 954-765-4999 or go to www.broward.org/waste.

Open-door policy

Have you ever wondered what happens to your trash after it is collected from the curb?

We invite you to tour one of our Broward County plants and witness firsthand the journey waste takes as it is converted into electricity.

To set up a tour, please contact:
Wheelabrator North Broward
Sally Alvarez
2600 Northwest 48th
Pompano Beach, FL 33073
954-971-8701 x 219
salvarez@wm.com

Wheelabrator South Broward
Joyce Tate
4400 South State Road 7
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
954-581-6606
jtate1@wm.com



**SOS Children's
Villages - Florida**

Wheelabrator changing lives of foster children

Sapienza joins SOS Children's Villages-Florida board

BY SEAN LEONARD

Linda Sapienza, director of community relations for Wheelabrator, joined the board of directors of SOS Children's Villages-Florida in January 2009, continuing the company's longstanding support and affiliation with the non-profit organization providing shelter and services to foster children.



Linda Sapienza

Marjory Bruszer was the CEO of SOS Children's Villages-Florida from its inception in 1993 until December 2008. She took a few moments prior to her retirement to discuss Wheelabrator's involvement with SOS.

"Wheelabrator is SOS Children's Villages-Florida's largest corporate sponsor. They've been involved since 1993, when the village opened and since has contributed over \$300,000. That has indeed been life-changing for many children.

"Because of Wheelabrator, we have been able to provide children with the tutoring and life-skills training the state doesn't provide," Bruszer said.

SOS Children's Villages-Florida is a cluster of 11 single-family homes, a community center, counseling center and an administration building on a cul-de-sac



Lorna and brother Paul live at SOS Children's Village in Florida sponsored by Wheelabrator.

in Coconut Creek, bordering Broward and Palm Beach counties.

The village provides a home, family and support services to abused, abandoned or severely neglected foster children who have no immediate plan for adoption or reunification with their birth families.

"We started with about 40 children in 1993, and today we're providing services for 67 children. A lot of kids have grown

up here," Bruszer said. "We have an 18-year-old who came to us when he was three years old, and another we've had since he was just three months old.

"All of the children have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect," Bruszer said. "It is incredibly rewarding to watch these children grow to a potential they never knew they had. We have two (former residents) in graduate school, and

another 12 in undergraduate school. Our goal is to give all the children the tools they need to lead happy and productive lives."

Sixty percent of funding for SOS Children's Villages - Florida comes from the state, according to Bruszer. The rest comes from corporate sponsors and fundraising events, which the 19-member volunteer board plans and oversees.

"The board meets monthly and has a great fiduciary responsibility to make sure the organization is running soundly, with proper budgeting and good financial practices in place. The board members are ambassadors for us, serving in committees and providing support."

Sapienza said she was eager to join the board of the organization she has been involved with for more than a dozen years.

"There is no better cause than helping children, and I am honored to serve on the board," Sapienza said. "Wheelabrator has been committed to SOS Children's Villages-Florida since its inception and my appointment to the board is an extension of the long line of administrators from Wheelabrator."

To learn more about SOS Children's Villages - Florida visit its Web site, www.sosflorida.com or call the office at (954) 420-5030. For more information about Wheelabrator's commitment to SOS Children's Villages - Florida, or to get involved with the organization, contact Linda Sapienza at lsapienza@wm.com or phone at (603) 929-3387.

Gosine joins Davie/Cooper City Chamber board

BY SEAN LEONARD

Continuing Wheelabrator's longstanding commitment to the Broward County community, South Broward Plant Manager Jairaj Gosine has joined the board of the Davie/Cooper City Chamber of Commerce.

"We enjoy supporting local businesses and partnering with the community. It's part of what we do for our host communities," said Gosine, who was hired in 1999 as environmental health and safety director and assumed the top post at the South Broward plant in the spring of 2007.

"I'm happy to be involved with the chamber of commerce. What we'll be looking at is business development,

marketing, economic affairs and ways to keep businesses stable," Gosine said. "My job really will be to give advice and to motivate."

Davie/Cooper City Chamber of Commerce President Alice Harrington said Wheelabrator has built a strong reputation as a good neighbor and friend to the business community.

"Wheelabrator is a very supportive and extremely involved corporate member of the chamber," Harrington said. "And we depend on our corporate members because they're the ones who are most able - in good times and in bad - to support the chamber's programs and services."

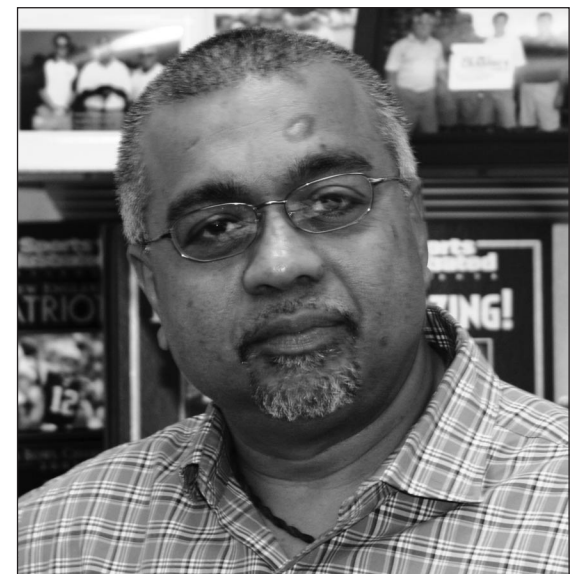
"Most of our membership is made up of small businesses, and these are very

challenging times for them," Harrington added.

Harrington said 15 percent of the roughly 400 member businesses of the Davie/Cooper City Chamber of Commerce are corporate members, including Wheelabrator, AT&T, Nova Southeastern University and the Miami Herald.

"I've been president of the chamber since 1991 and, for at least that long, Wheelabrator has been an active chamber member," Harrington said. "It is a company that has made a practice of giving back."

For more information about the Davie/Cooper City Chamber visit its Web site at www.davie-coopercity.org, or call the chamber at (954) 581-0790.



Employee
profiles

Energizing Wheelabrator

Happy to be a part of the North Broward family



Olivia Smith wears many hats at Wheelabrator North Broward.

By TODD McFLIKER

Olivia Smith joined the Wheelabrator family 15 years ago as a temporary secretary at the North Broward plant. Within a few months she became a permanent member of the team.

Today, Smith serves as plant administrative coordinator and is responsible for everything from secretarial duties to operating the scale house to overseeing accounts payable and receivable. She can be found weighing trucks in and out and updating spreadsheets, or paying the bills and feeding the decorative fish. Basically, Smith crosses all of the t's and dots all the i's at Wheelabrator.

A graduate of the Sheridan Technical Center in Hollywood, Fla., Smith enjoys going to work five days a week. She truly appreciates every facet of Wheelabrator, from co-workers, management and customers, to the benefits and the job's flexibility.

"I can always turn to a co-worker for a favor and they know it will be returned," Smith said. "I love how the company allows me to have an active life outside of the office. Not only is Wheelabrator concerned with our safety inside and outside of the office, they are flexible around our families' lives as well.

"Wheelabrator allows their employees to express their honest feelings," Smith added. "They always listen to our problems and concerns. Not a day goes by where I have to go home in a bad mood. How many employees out there in the workforce can say that?"

According to Smith, something new and funny takes place every day. "My co-workers

are hilarious, adding excitement to the daily routine by playing tricks and surprises," she said. "For example, they really got me for my birthday on August 8. Everybody was tiptoeing around me, making their way to the gazebo. Somebody asked me to grab something outside, and I walked right into the big surprise with cake and cameras. Even if I was embarrassed, it was all done in good heart."

In her spare time, Smith enjoys spending time with her family. Her older daughter, Travonda, is 24 and employed with UPS in Lauderhill.

Meanwhile, 23-year-old Tanisha is currently going to law school at Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University in Orlando. Smith is also ecstatic about her two granddaughters, ages 5 and 3.

Besides her family, Smith is interested in home design. She has grown quite skilled at repainting walls, hanging new drapes and simply rearranging furniture. She

recently decorated her younger granddaughter's bedroom like the underwater castle of Disney's Princess Ariel. For now, the decorating is simply a hobby. She knows that if it were to ever grow into an actual business, her leisurely freedom would be lost.

Smith hopes to stay another 15 years with the same co-workers and management. "I really enjoy going to work every day," she said. "The company has grown into a major part of my life and I'm thankful to Wheelabrator for that."

“

**The company
has grown into
a major part of
my life and I'm
thankful to
Wheelabrator
for that.”**

Olivia Smith



Steve Voigt was a chef and caterer before joining the Wheelabrator South Broward team in 1991.

A man of many talents at South Broward plant

By SEAN LEONARD

Steve Voigt, day supervisor at Wheelabrator South Broward, is a man of diverse interests.

"I was a chef and a caterer," said Voigt, a native of Kingston, N.Y., whose father worked for IBM and mother owned a restaurant. "My parents would tell me 'if you're a chef, at least you know you'll always have a good meal.'"

Voigt's stronger calling, however, was a penchant for building and mechanics. "They're two very different interests," he said. "There were not a lot of things to do or opportunities in Kingston, so I decided to branch out and do my own thing."

In 1980, Voigt went to work for Carpenter Contractors of America in Pompano Beach, Fla., and honed his skill as a lumberyard crane operator. He later worked for General Crane before joining Wheelabrator North Broward in 1991.

"Wheelabrator was looking for crane operators and I had been in the field for several years," Voigt said. He first worked in the crane pulpit at the North Broward plant for many years, maneuvering the 9,000-pound cranes to scoop up two tons

of refuse to drop into the boiler feeders.

Since then, Voigt has steadily climbed the company's management ranks, from assistant utility operator to utility operator, assistant plant operator to plant operator, and control room operator before he transferred to the South Broward plant as day supervisor in 2004.

"Wheelabrator is a company that promotes from within," he said. "I've been here for 18 years and it's the longest time I've ever worked for one company. That's because I enjoy the work. It's challenging, but we all work as a team."

As day supervisor, Voigt handles scheduling, but the thrust of his work is to ensure various systems are running smoothly, particularly the new metals-recovery system at the South Broward plant, which removes all ferrous and non-ferrous metals, resulting in a greater revenue stream from metal recycling.

"I also oversee our lock- and-tag-out system, which is a procedure for safely removing a piece of equipment for maintenance," said Voigt, who assists with safety efforts and implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety

Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program procedures.

"I had a great job when I joined the company. My expertise is in crane operations, but the more I trained, I knew I had the potential to be where I am today," said Voigt, who is also a certified forklift instructor and oversees forklift training at the plant.

Voigt said the job is most exciting when there are challenges, particularly those posed by Mother Nature. When Category 5 Hurricane Wilma came through in 2005, the fourth-costliest storm in U.S. history, Voigt was on duty with a skeleton crew at the South Broward plant.

"The equipment here is designed to protect itself. There was a lot of damage throughout the county, but we managed to stay online through the whole hurricane," he said. "It's times like that, when a hurricane is threatening, the entire plant pulls together and buttons everything down."

When he's not at work, Voigt enjoys his other interest, cooking, for himself and his wife, Nancy.



Going green

Waste Management executive highlights company's environmental initiatives

By DAVID LISCIO

Green may be today's buzzword among the environmentally conscious, however sustainability is not a new concept for Waste Management. Year after year, Waste Management has found cutting-edge ways to use trash as an energy source.

This message was the theme of the keynote address delivered by Waste Management President and Chief Operating Officer Lawrence O'Donnell III at the 20th annual symposium of the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC), held in Baltimore on Nov. 17-18.

According to O'Donnell, the company's more than 47,000 employees often express a desire to get involved in community efforts to preserve wildlife habitat, conserve open land and generally make the planet healthier.

"In the late 1980s, Waste Management began working with the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC). Our employees were looking to get involved and this organization helped us do just that," he said, noting the council has been responsible for ensuring 2.4 million acres, most of them owned by large U.S. corporations, remain as wildlife habitat, conservation land, or are otherwise part of sustainability projects.

"We have been thinking green for a long time. So, what in the world is a trash company doing talking about sustainability?"

With this rhetorical question, O'Donnell launched into a list of Waste Management's green initiatives, particularly its hallmark program including 16 waste-to-energy facilities capable of creating enough steam to push turbines to generate electricity for homes and businesses.

At some facilities, such as the waste-to-energy plant in Saugus, Mass., landfills have been capped and transformed into scenic wildlife habitats, complete with a visitor center and associated education program. In Baltimore, a riverside fish hatchery is operated adjacent to the company's waste-to-energy facility. Both projects are evidence of the company's environmental commitment.

In 2006, Waste Management recycled enough paper to save more than 41 million trees and generated electricity capable of



Lawrence O'Donnell III

annually powering more than one million homes. The company's waste-based energy annually replaces the nation's need for more than 14 million barrels of oil. Its landfills, designed with liners to prevent

leachate from entering the region's groundwater, provide more than 21,000 acres of WHC-certified land.

By 2020, the company expects to double its green energy output, increase the volume of recyclables processed from eight million tons to more than 20 million, and boost the efficiency of its truck fleet by 15 percent, which simultaneously will reduce emissions. O'Donnell said the company also plans to quadruple the number of acres currently set aside for conservation and wildlife habitat — news met with a roar of approval from WHC members at the Baltimore symposium.

O'Donnell credits the WHC for helping Waste Management achieve its ranking. WHC's programs can clearly benefit a corporation committed to leading the way in environmental stewardship. Since the start of their collaboration 20 years ago, the WHC has certified 49 Waste Management sites.

"We feel like we're making a difference. Companies are coming to us," said O'Donnell. "People are starting to look at us differently."



Waste Management employees Terry Beasy, left, and Darren Johnson of Indiana enjoy the WHC Symposium in Baltimore.

100 years in business

100 YEARS: from Page 1

leadership and innovation in the decades ahead."

Wheelabrator was founded in 1908 as Sand Mixing Machine Company, which, by 1910, had evolved into American Foundry Equipment Company, inventor of the American Dust Arrestor, an industrial fabric cleaning system for foundry operations. In 1932, the company introduced the airless centrifugal wheel for efficiently cleaning industrial surfaces.

Over the next two decades, through acquisitions and innovations, the company grew into an environmentally focused company. By the early 1970s, Wheelabrator emerged as the founder of the U.S.-based waste-to-energy business when it opened the industry's first commercially successful facility in Saugus, Mass.

Today, wholly owned by the largest environmental service company in North America, Waste Management, Wheelabrator is a recognized market leader in the design, construction, and operation of waste-to-energy and independent power plants, with 21 facilities across North America. The company has recorded numerous industry firsts in providing reliable and safe waste disposal, clean energy, natural resource management and protection, and air quality control.

Other Wheelabrator "firsts" include:

1975 — first commercially successful waste-to-energy facility

1979 — first commercial reuse/recycling project for waste-to-energy residue

1987 — first modern air quality control technology for large-scale, waste-to-energy

1994 — first waste-to-energy facility with integrated materials recovery/recycling and carbon injection control

According to Weidman, "The people who founded this company in 1908 and those who will lead it in the next century will have shared the same motivations — leading very talented people in developing better and better technologies for industry and the environment. We're extremely proud to be a part of this chain of past and future innovation."

Leading the industry

Wheelabrator engineer Artie Cole is honored for outstanding contributions to waste-to-energy globally

By SEAN LEONARD

Arthur "Artie" Cole, vice president of technical services for Wheelabrator Technologies, has worked for more than three decades to invent and improve waste-to-energy systems, and his efforts have led to seven U.S. patents for improvements in refuse-combustion techniques and air-pollution control.

Because of his ingenuity, Cole was honored by the Waste-To-Energy Research & Technology (WTER) Council at Columbia University with its 2008 Outstanding Industry Contributor Award.

"My job is to go around the plants constantly looking at the issues causing problems and determine where we can make improvements and design new systems," said Cole, who works at Wheelabrator's headquarters in Hampton, N.H., and provides his engineering expertise to both Wheelabrator and its parent company, Waste Management. "I've always liked to make things work better."

Affectionately known to friends and colleagues as "the pig farmer," a reference to his work as a youth on Boston's North Shore at his family's hog farm, Cole's educational background is centered in animal science and agricultural engineering. Cole attended North Shore Community College after graduating in 1973 from Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute in Danvers, Mass.

"That's where I developed my mechanical aptitude and passion for fixing things," Cole said. "There's a lot of mechanics and engineering involved in agriculture."

A Peabody, Mass., native, Cole recalls working as a youth collecting food waste from swill buckets, something most homeowners at the time had on their

property. "We'd collect the swill to feed to the hogs, so I've really worked in waste-to-energy for my entire life," he said.

Cole went to work for Wheelabrator in 1977 as a first class mechanic at the company's first waste-to-energy plant, located in Saugus, Mass. Eleven years later he was promoted to New England regional manager for maintenance. In 1993 he was named

director of plant engineering, then vice president of plant engineering in 1998; vice president of maintenance and plant services in 2001; and vice president of technical services in 2007.

"I'm always traveling, visiting all of the plants," Cole said. "The technology has evolved and we're constantly designing new systems, and improving old patents, to keep up with the technology. This is a very regulated industry and we provide the purest form of recycling."

Among Cole's inventions for which he was honored by WTER are:

- ◆ a slide plate guide that eliminated the need for roller bearings that would quickly wear out;

- ◆ expansion joints made from high

temperature fiber rope that is placed around ceramic tiles protecting the waste-to-energy combustion chamber;

- ◆ shields that protect waste-to-energy boiler tubes from erosion and corrosion;

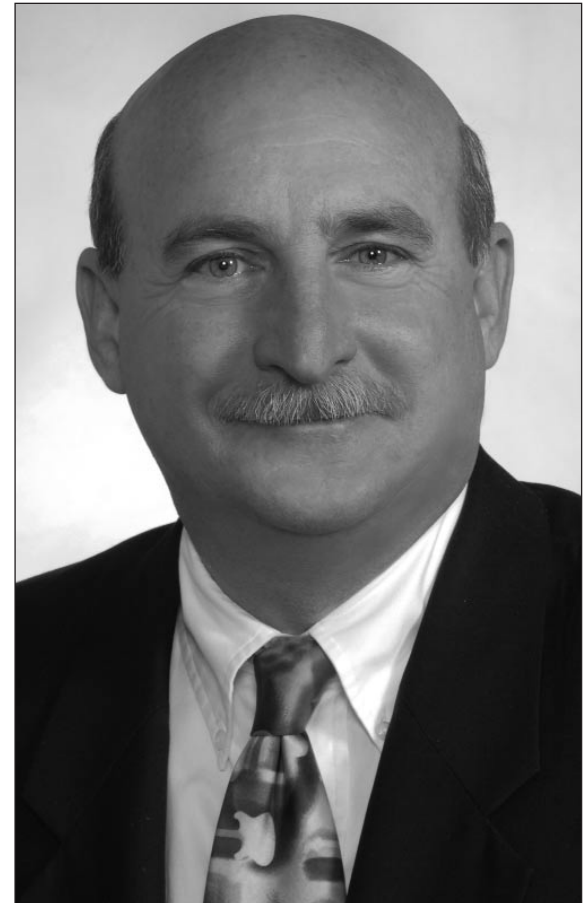
- ◆ a replaceable boiler roof segment that does not require the entire grate to be removed; and

- ◆ durable spray nozzles for air-pollution control.

"There's a lot more to these plants than most people imagine," Cole said. "When the public is made aware of that, their comfort level (toward the plants) goes way up."

Nickolas J. Themelis, director of the Earth Engineering Center of Columbia University, said of the 2008 award recipients, "It is a common saying that

“
This is a very
regulated
industry and
we provide
the purest
form of
recycling.”
Artie Cole



Wheelabrator Vice President Arthur Cole was honored by Columbia University.

certain people make all the difference in this world. This is true for the individuals (honored in 2008). Through their life's work, they have contributed much to the global advancement of thermal treatment technologies and the attendant environmental and resource conservation benefits."

USDA makes training video at Wheelabrator

VIDEO: from Page 1

documentary about the proper handling of regulated garbage for all types of facilities."

Morris said work is still being done on the video and she expects it to be finalized in the spring. "It will be for training purposes within the USDA," she said.

Dr. Cheryl L. Berthoud, DVM, senior staff veterinary medical officer with the USDA in Riverdale, Md., wrote in a thank you e-mail to management at Wheelabrator South

Broward: "The filming went so very smoothly! We got everything we wanted and more ... The facility is so beautifully maintained and will look wonderful on film. We could not have asked for a better shoot."

Rick Mulhorn, senior plant engineer at the South Broward plant, said Wheelabrator works closely with the USDA.

"The USDA closely regulates the disposal of agricultural waste coming in from cruise ships, freight ships and from international flights coming into the Fort

Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and Miami-Dade International Airport," Mulhorn said. "The department inspects all plants and agricultural cargo, things like cut flowers coming in from around the world, and if there's a problem found – if it is determined there is any disease risk – the cargo is ordered destroyed and taken to our plant for incineration."

Mulhorn said inspectors hope to prevent the importation and/or spread of disease such as the Citrus canker that began in dooryard

trees in Miami and West Palm Beach in 1995 and since has wiped out more than 25 percent of Florida's citrus production capacity.

Waste Management makes daily stops to pick up agricultural waste at airports and seaports in Dade and Broward counties, Mulhorn said.

Mulhorn coordinated the USDA filming at Wheelabrator South Broward. "We were happy to have the USDA film our operations, and I look forward to seeing the video," he said.

SCIENCE STARS

McNicol Middle School students to participate in Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

Hollywood is unveiling some new stars this year — science stars, that is.

Students at McNicol Middle School in Hollywood, Fla. will join the ranks of 12 other teams, nationwide, to participate in the annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education. Since its inception in 1994, the symposium has put into action Wheelabrator's long-held belief that businesses and communities should help educators introduce real-life experiences to young adults. The multi-day event, held in Florida each May, tasks the students with identifying an environmental challenge in their community and establishing a long-term solution.

The goal of the symposium — to foster environmental and social awareness in the youth — aligns well with that of McNicol's science and pre-engineering magnet program. Students in this program are challenged to practice the skills of observation, experimentation, inference, prediction and measurement through hands-on laboratory experiences and research.

To establish a formal partnership, representatives from Wheelabrator Broward met with McNicol Middle School

Principal Darren Jones and Assistant Principal Peter Nicholson in late November. The meeting was arranged by Nina A. Randall, executive director of Partners In Education. Founded in 1983, Partners In Education is Broward County Public Schools' premier school-business partnership program. Partners mentor or tutor students, provide real-world projects for students to work on, sponsor field trips, donate equipment and provide career shadowing and internship experiences.

"As a pre-engineering magnet, I felt that the symposium fit into their curriculum," said Randall. "We try to find the best matches, pairing schools and businesses based on what they each have to offer. Many companies, like Wheelabrator, organize events and programs that are unique and specific to their expertise. In this case, the symposium teaches environmental science in a hands-on way."

"We agreed; it was a perfect fit," said Nicholson. "We hope the kids come away from this with an understanding that they can and will make a difference."

The rookie team will

consist of members of the newly formed McNicol Middle Environmental Club, led by teacher Lara Coronel. Coronel,

who holds a master's degree in environmental science, is excited about the challenge her team decided to pursue: initiating a school-wide recycling program.

"This issue was chosen by the students due to the amount of waste they see and take part in right here in our school," said Coronel. "They felt that we really didn't have much of a right to solve other problems until we solved our own. Recycling has a relatively large impact-to-effort ratio, and we feel we can really make a difference."

McNicol becomes the fourth school in Broward County to participate in the symposium, joining Sawgrass Springs, New River and Westglades middle schools. Students

representing New England and the mid-Atlantic region also compete. Each school sends a team of 10 students who are required to present their topics, using computer graphics and other visuals, in front of a panel of educators, elected officials and community volunteers. Participating schools each receive \$500 in startup funds and a \$1,000 donation from Wheelabrator at the conclusion of the event. In addition, students are later eligible to earn a four-year scholarship through

Wheelabrator's partnership with Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.



Teacher Lara Coronel works with student Reynold Urena during an Environmental Club meeting at McNicol Middle School.

“

We hope the kids come away from this with an understanding that they can and will make a difference.

**Principal Peter Nicholson
McNicol Middle School**



McNicol Middle School Environmental Club, led by teacher Lara Coronel, center, will join twelve other teams nationwide to participate in the annual Wheelabrator Symposium for Environment and Education in May.