

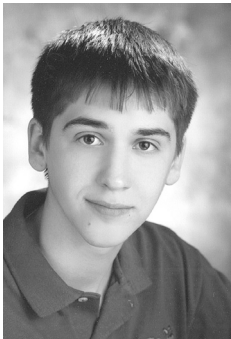
Conference Wrap-up

By Pat Scalera, CEO,
New York Rural Water Association

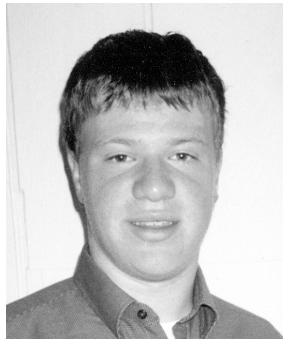


Once again, we wrap up another successful conference. The New York Rural Water Association celebrated its 26th Annual Technical Conference May 1-4, 2005, in Saratoga Springs. I would like to thank everyone for participating in this event, our members, attendees, exhibitors, speakers, our special honored guests, Board of Directors and especially our staff for their endless dedication and professionalism.

We were so pleased to have over 90 exhibitors help support this event and to have fairly good (at least dry) weather for our golf outing, which kicked off the conference. Special thanks to the winners of the skins for their generous contribution to our scholarship fund and to all of you who contributed through the purchase of 50/50 tickets and the kissing booth. Below are pictures of the recipients of our 2005 Scholarships. We wish them the best of luck with their education and future.



Matthew Mokszycki
Hudson, NY



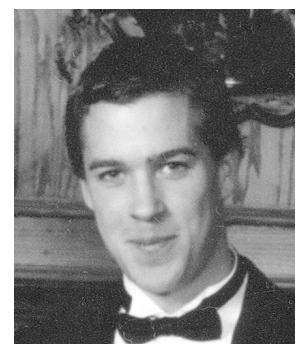
Paul Silverberg
Montgomery, NY



Bradley Smith
Sherman, NY



Amy Northup
Waterville, NY



Alaric Gricius
Springwater, NY

During our Banquet Dinner, we recognized our award recipients for 2005, and they are featured in this issue of Aquafacts on page 31. These extraordinary individuals and systems are truly deserving of these awards for their dedication to our industry and the customers they serve. Congratulations to each of you.

I believe all of our attendees received top-notch training from the excellent presenters available during the three days in Saratoga. Although the training rooms were set for 100 each, many were packed solid and additional chairs were brought in. It appears from the evaluations we received, that many of you would like to see more on legal issues and dealing with difficult people. So, we will plan to expand on those types of topics next year, and we wish to thank Donna Gilberto from NYCOM and Paul Chatfield from Chatfield Engineering for providing such great material for our industry professionals.

A clear message was delivered from our honored guests that spoke at the Opening Ceremony. Money is tight, our infrastructure needs are great, and you need to be prepared with your projects, and have your ducks in order to proceed with construction.

Another theme became apparent throughout the conference, the need to generate interest among our youth for future careers in this industry. We should all make it our priority to educate our elected officials and enhance the professionalism of our industry water and wastewater leaders.

For those of you that could not make the Saratoga Conference, please consider attending next year at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY, May 22-25, 2006. ♠