Upcoming CIT Training
by EH Staff
Class dates and locations are set for CIT in 2016.
March 7-11 – General Module, DHHS offices, Raleigh
March 14-18 – Food Module, Holiday Inn, Raleigh
March 28-April 8 – Onsite water protection Module, Lake Wheeler Pole Barn, Raleigh
May 23-27 – General Module, Raleigh, (final location TBD)
June 6-17 – Onsite water protection Module, Lake Wheeler Pole Barn, Raleigh
June 27-July 1 – Food Module, DHHS offices, Raleigh
October 3-7 – General Module, DHHS offices, Raleigh
October 10-14 – Food Module, DHHS offices, Raleigh
October 17-28 – Onsite water protection Module, Lake Wheeler Pole Barn, Raleigh

Employee Spotlight: Cindy Callahan, Branch Head, Food Protection and Facilities
Please tell us about your experience in public/environmental health?
I started working as an environmental health technician in Macon County, Franklin, NC, in 1987. Clay Pennington authorized me in food, lodging, & institutions (FL&I) and onsite wastewater (OSWW) in 1989. At that time the childcare authorization was also included in FL&I. In Macon County we evenly divided the work inspecting food and lodging establishments and OSWW evaluations, including final inspections on septic systems one day a week. I enjoyed the OSWW program but preferred the FLI program eventually becoming the program specialist for the FLI program. In 2003, I left Macon County and accepted the State position as an environmental health regional specialist.

Sign up online here: http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/oet/citreg.asp
**What is your best memory of being a regional specialist?**
I have many good memories. It is really a great job to have had. I met and developed friendships with county environmental health specialists that will be long lasting.

**What are your short term goals as branch head?**
This is a big job and I plan to get a grasp on it. Organize the files in my office, work on the Branch website, respond to emails faster, finish all the required on-line training, form a workgroup and finalized the guidelines for shared use kitchens (multiple permits in one food establishment). Really, I wish I could do everything at once, but it’s not possible.

**What is at least one long term goal as branch head?**
Adopt the 2017 FDA Food Code. With amendments, of course.

**What do you like most about working out of the Raleigh office?**
Working and getting to know my co-workers. I missed the office atmosphere when I was home based.

**What do you like least about working out of the Raleigh office?**
The traffic in Raleigh, especially on Six Forks Road.

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**Assessments of On-site System-derived Nutrients in a Watershed Scale**

by Sushama Pradhan, Ph. D, Non-point Source Program Coordinator, OSWP Branch

Anthropogenic nutrient contribution is one of the most common reasons for surface water impairment in North Carolina. Basin management plans and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for nutrients are becoming more prevalent as a means of managing nutrient loading to surface waters. Due to the individual nature of on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTSs), their influence on surface water quality is relatively unknown, particularly their comprehensive effects on a watershed scale. Part of the reason for this uncertainty is the lack of field data collection within delineated effluent plumes to confirm OWTS contributions in typical Piedmont settings.

On-site wastewater treatment systems are the primary domestic wastewater treatment system for approximately 50% of North Carolina's population. It is almost impossible to obtain enough site-specific field data on measurement of pollutant loading from individual systems. Thus, the prevalent approach of quantifying pollutant loading is by using adapted watershed scale hydrologic models and carefully selected refined model inputs.

The On-site Water Protection Branch initiated a collaborative study with the Environmental Health Sciences Program at East Carolina University and Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Program at North Carolina A &T State University. The project goals included studying OWTS-derived nutrient transport dynamics and to model nutrient loadings at watershed scale using the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT-Septic) model.

Accurately estimating OWTS-derived nutrients in both current and future development scenarios is a critical research need. The information collected in this project will assist governments with decisions regarding current and future wastewater treatment infrastructure strategies that can substantially reduce nutrient loads in affected watersheds. These include consideration of on-site system maintenance and monitoring strategies, more advanced (and costly) types of OWTSs, as well as potential sewer extensions.
Food Protection and Facilities Branch
Awarded Grant from AFDO
By Jennifer Stewart, MS Food Defense Coordinator

Recently the Food Protection and Facilities Branch had the opportunity to apply for a grant through the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) in order to enhance implementation of the FDA Retail Program Standards - standard 4 quality assurance. After much work, the program was awarded the maximum grant amount of $20,000.

This funding will allow the purchase of training equipment for all staff as well as new sets of interactive learning devices and software. These devices will allow the development of more interactive and hands on training programs. In addition to new equipment, this funding will also allow implementation of a pilot QA program with county staff that will be rolled out to the entire state after the trial period. Development of new training courses, materials, and worksheets are planned. Food protection regional staff members are very excited to make more training options available to each county and bring North Carolina fully into compliance with standard 4. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming trainings that will be held and for opportunities to participate in beta testing new materials and methods over the coming year. If you have questions about this program please feel free to contact Melissa Ham (Melissa.ham@dhhs.nc.gov).

For more information about the FDA program standards visit: http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/ProgramStandards/
NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Builds Partnerships to Enhance Knowledge among Clinical and EH Professionals
By Neasha Graves and Megan Hoert Hughes, Environmental Health Educators, UNC Institute for the Environment

In the past five years, more than 36,000 children younger than 6 years old tested with blood lead levels at or above 5µg/dL, the level at which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend clinical and educational interventions to reduce lead exposures among children. The NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), housed in the NC DHHS Environmental Health Section, fostered partnerships and coordinated statewide and regional outreach activities last fall to prepare clinical and environmental health professionals with knowledge of emerging issues regarding lead exposure.

In partnership with NC CLPPP to coordinate outreach activities, UNC Chapel Hill Environmental Resource Program educators Megan Hoert Hughes and Neasha Graves conducted “lead talks” for nearly 200 environmental health specialists and health educators employed throughout the state. The presentations, given during regional education meetings coordinated by the NC Public Health Association environmental health districts and the NC CLPPP regional staff, highlighted information on emerging, nontraditional sources of lead in consumer products, the effects of lead on pregnant women and infants, and recent state and federal policies implemented to minimize lead exposure among at-risk populations.

NC CLPPP staff also collaborated with the NC State Laboratory of Public Health to coordinate a statewide clinical lead training for over 100 healthcare providers across the state on October 22-23. Across the two days, the training, which was offered in-person and as a live webcast, featured research on sources and health effects of lead exposure, policies around testing and environmental investigations for small children, information on blood lead sample collection and reporting, and strategies and materials for educating families of small children. State Lab Hemachemistry Supervisor Kate Mason praised the multi-faceted training approach, “The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public health is pleased to have the opportunity to partner with NC CLPPP to provide the Clinical Blood Lead training. We feel the training’s combination of policy, clinical and educational resources for healthcare providers was imperative. HCPs have limited travel abilities and enormous workloads, and the ability to ask questions during the live webcast was an added bonus.”

For more information on lead outreach activities for professionals or community audiences in your county or region, contact Neasha Graves at neasha_graves@unc.edu or (919) 966-3746. Funding is provided, in part, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Grant 1UE1EH001276) for these training and outreach activities.

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Online at http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/

The North Carolina Environmental Health State-of-Practice Committee (NCEHSOP) is announcing the following workshops in 2016:

**APRIL 5-7, 2016**

**Food Establishment Plan Review**
Holiday Inn Raleigh North-Midtown
2805 Highwoods Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27604
$125.00 registration fee (limited to 40 registrants!)
15.75 credit hours

**APRIL 29, 2016**

**Evaluating Clay Mineralogy for On-Site Wastewater Systems**
NC Cooperative Extension/Orange County Center
306-E Revere Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
$50.00 registration fee (limited to 30 registrants!)
6.25 credit hours

**MAY 17-18, 2016**

**On-Site Wastewater: What You Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask**
Alamance Community College
1247 Jimmie Kerr Rd.

**AUGUST 3-4, 2016**

**1st Annual Environmental Health Symposium**
Co-Sponsored with Eastern AHEC
New Bern Convention Center
New Bern, NC
$75.00 registration fee
Registration will be begin in Spring 2016! Finalized agenda will be released at that time!

**NOVEMBER 9-10, 2016**

**Emergency Preparedness: Are You Ready for the Zombie Apocalypse?**
Christmount Center
Conference Rooms A & B
222 Fern Way
Black Mountain, NC
$115 registration fee (LUNCH IS INCLUDED!)
10 credit hours
15 rooms at the Christmount Christian Assembly are blocked off for this event with a government rate of $89/room.