



# Environmental Health Section Newsletter Fall 2022

## Inside this issue:

Meet your 2023 Officers	2
Awards and Scholarships	3-5
Continuing Education Opportunities	6-7
NCEHSOP	8
NC State Soils and Onsite Wastewater Continuing Ed	9
NCPHA Fall Education Conference	10
NEHA AEC 2023	11
Conference for Food Protection 2023	12
EHS in the News	13
State Environmental Health Section Update	14
NCDHHS Press Release on Oyster Recall	15
District News	16
NCPHA ENVH District Officers	17
Resolutions Committee Report	18

## Environmental Health Section Newsletter Fall 2022



### President's Message

Angela Sowers, Orange County

First, thank you for taking the time to read my message as we begin a new year for NCPHA in planning and establishing goals for the future of the Environmental Health Section. The last few years have been a difficult road for many navigating the challenges of a pandemic within our communities across the state. The roles we play every day in educating and supporting our public constituents can be difficult to measure. We are the “behind the scenes” preventative professionals whom are rarely seen but carry a vast amount of knowledge to share.

I wanted to highlight some of the facets of Environmental Health that vastly impact our community as we strive to prevent disease, empower our partners through education and continuing to build healthier communities: Water Quality, Vector Control, Air Quality, Food Safety, Wastewater Management, Infection Control, Industrial Hygiene, Worker Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Injury Prevention. These are just a few that immediately come to mind. Consider the impact of these program areas and how you support your communities, give yourself a pat on the back.

We hope to develop new friendships through professional development and establish ongoing goals for the niche that is environmental health. Please consider participating in our meetings and support the future of our profession as we strive for continual growth. All are welcome and we look forward to working together.



**Meet Your 2023 NCPHA Environmental Health Section Officers**



**President: Angela Sowers, Orange County**

Angela graduated from Old Dominion University with a B.S. in Environmental Health 2007. She attended post graduate study in MPH/ MSEH program at ODU and began her career in the Indian Health

Service taking an active duty post within USPHS, Bremerton, Washington. She went on to work in safety consulting with a contracted government facility providing industrial hygiene/ work safety. Before joining Orange County, she was an Environmental Health Technical Specialist with the State of Virginia for 11 years. Concurrently she works as a program specialist in Food, Lodging and Institution and promotes public outreach for Orange County. She has served on the EH section Committee since 2018.

**Treasurer: Ashley Mize, Forsyth County**



Ashley graduated From Western Carolina University with a B.S. in Environmental Health in 2016. She then graduated from Grand Canyon University with an MPA with an

Emphasis in Healthcare Management in 2020. She began her Environmental Health Specialist career at Stokes County for a little over two years, transferred to Rowan County for a year and is now working at Forsyth County. All three counties she has worked for, she worked in the Food and Lodging program. In Forsyth County her main focus is in the Food and Lodging program but is taking on more responsibilities in the Lead program as well. She is hoping to continue growing and moving up throughout the remainder of her career.



**Vice President: Kathryn Hobby, Orange County**

Kathryn graduated from Western Carolina University with a B.S. in Environmental Health in 2000. She worked for Wake County Environmental Services for 17 years in the Onsite Wastewater, Groundwater Protection, and Watershed

Management Programs. During this time, she managed the Recreational Water Monitoring Program and worked with the Wake County Board of Human Services to adopt new EPA standards as well as monitoring and public notification protocols.

In 2017, she transitioned to Orange County and continues her work with Onsite Wastewater and Wells.

**Secretary: Amanda Nester, Onslow County**

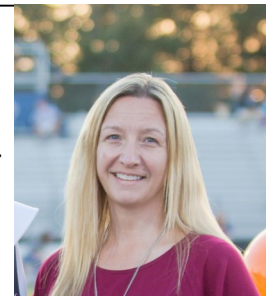


Amanda graduated from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Psychology in 2013. Her previous work experience include working for the Division of Marine Fisheries as a commercial fishing observer, conducting a bird and bat study at North Carolina's wind farm in Elizabeth City, Water Quality Technician for the City of Jacksonville's Stormwater Division, and Environmental Technician for Onslow County's landfill,

In 2021 she transitioned to the Onslow County Environmental Health Department where she is authorized in Food, Lodging, Institutions, and Tattoos.

**Past President: Tonya Zimmerman, NC DHHS**

Tonya graduated from Pfeiffer University in 2000 with a B.S. in Math and Biology. Tonya worked for the Rowan County Health Department from December 2006 until March 2018. She currently works for NC DHHS Children's Environmental Health Branch as an Environmental Health Regional Specialist. She received her master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Global Health from Liberty University in December 2017. Tonya resides in Faith, NC with her husband and children.





**NORTH CAROLINA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION**  
N. C. Public Health Association, Inc.  
Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.

## NCPHA EH Section 2022 AWARDS

### **Awards Committee**

Every year the EH Section sends out a request for nominations for Rookie EH Specialist of the Year, EH Specialist of the year and the Bill Board Award. All nominees must be active members in good standing with the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA. This year the awards committee only received nominations for the Rookie EH Specialist of the Year.

### **Rookie EH Specialist of the Year award to Denzel Lewis**

This year the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA is proud to present the Rookie EH Specialist of the Year Award to a deserving Environmental Health Specialist. To be considered for this award, the nominee shall have no less than one year of active service in the field of Environmental Health and no more than three years of active service as of December 31 of the year for which the award is to be given. The nominee must be actively engaged in the field of environmental health and must have performed professional duties in the field of environmental health above and beyond the usual employment requirements that elevates the professional status of the environmental health specialist.

This year's recipient started his collegiate career at A&T University on a sports scholarship but later transferred to ECU where he finished his studies in Environmental Health. He started his EH career in Pender County in 2019 and is currently employed with the New Hanover County Health Department. This year's recipient is also a member of the EDNCPHA but has spent most of his 'free' professional time quickly getting authorizations as he is currently working to attain all authorizations. He passed the REHS exam on the first attempt as he has no problem studying to get things done right the first time. He is always eager to take continuing educational courses so he can gain more knowledge regarding Environmental Health. He actively seeks to better himself and incorporate the best attributes of his colleagues into his own inspection style. His attitude towards work combines quality and efficiency. His work ethic never falters and his interactions with the public are respectful and effective in gaining compliance. He is hardworking, kind, and easily coachable. He has come up with many innovative ways to get compliance in his time in EH. One of his most uniquely helpful traits is the ability to foster compliance though being relatable and educational with our local operators. He volunteers to work weekends and nights to inspect food trucks, temporary food event vendors, and evening-only places without complaint.



As President of the EH Section of NCPHA, it is my pleasure to award Denzel Lewis as this year's recipient of the Rookie EH Specialist of the Year Award.





NORTH CAROLINA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION  
N. C. Public Health Association, Inc.  
Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.

## NCPHA EH Section 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

### Scholarship Committee

Every year the EH Section sends out applications for several scholarship to ECU, WCU and the local health departments for those individuals majoring in the field of EH. This year the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA awarded 1 scholarship to a deserving student working on an environmental health education and 2 scholarships to deserving Environmental Health Specialist working on expanding their EH knowledge, skills and professionalism. Education and professional development are critical to the sustainability of the EH workforce. The 3 scholarships that were awarded are the ***Tim Hilton EH Specialist Scholarship***, the ***Stacy Covil Scholarship***, and the ***Practicing EH Specialist Scholarship***.

### Scholarships

The ***Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship*** is awarded to an Environmental Health Specialist within the geographical boundaries of the Western District NCPHA, who is a current member of NCPHA and the EH Section and whose course work is related to the professional environmental health field. This year's recipient of the Tim Hilton Scholarship is an EHS working for the Forsyth County Health Department. She is authorized in food, lodging and institutions, and child care and schools. She is pursuing a master's degree in public health at University of NC Greensboro with an overall GPA of 3.5. She is a team player, volunteering to assist with temporary food establishment, Covid 19 response efforts and training of new staff and students. Please help me congratulate Shannon Maloney as this year's Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship recipient.

The ***Stacy Covil Scholarship*** is awarded to a Western Carolina University junior or senior student majoring in EH, has a GPA of 2.5 or above, and has a financial need. This year's recipient of the Stacy Covil Scholarship is a senior at WCU majoring in EH with an overall GPA of 4.0. Outside of her classroom work, she is actively involved in 2 projects. One is a student participant in an interdisciplinary anti-poverty community project called Design for Health. The second is a research project to better assess air pollution exposures from prescribed burn events in Western NC. She is a Brinson Honors student, a member of the Honors Scholar Community, member of the Student EH Association, youth activities coordinator at her church, and a member of a community non-profit called Broad River Antique Power Association. Please help me congratulate Mackenzie Campbell as this year's Stacy Covil Scholarship recipient.

The ***Practicing EH Specialist Scholarship*** is awarded to an Environmental Health Specialist in NC, who is a current member of the NCPHA and the EH Section, and whose course work is related to the professional environmental health field. This year's recipient of the Practicing EH Specialist Scholarship is an EHS working for the Onslow County Health Department. She is authorized in food, lodging and institutions and tattoos. She is working on authorizations in public swimming pools and childcare and school. She is pursuing a master's degree in environmental health at East Carolina University. She is passionate about EH and is committed to making a difference in the field. Please help me congratulate Amanda Nester as this year's Practicing EH Specialist Scholarship recipient.





NORTH CAROLINA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION  
N. C. Public Health Association, Inc.  
Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.

**Please Apply for the NCPHA EH Section  
SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS for 2023**



*Dewey L. Padgett Scholarship (\$300 per year)*

Applicant must be an ECU Junior or Senior student majoring in environmental health.

Applicant shall have GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need.

If a qualified student does not apply, the scholarship may be offered to a practicing environmental health specialist (member).

*Stacy Covil Scholarship (\$300 per year)*

Applicant must be a WCU Junior or Senior student majoring in environmental health.

Applicant shall have a GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need.

If a qualified student does not apply, the scholarship may be offered to a practicing environmental health specialist (member).

*Environmental Health Section Scholarship Fund (\$300 per year per scholarship)*

One scholarship is to be awarded to an ECU student and one to a WCU student.

Application from ECU and WCU applicants are approved by the Executive Committee and shall have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Nominate someone now that deserves the recognition and distinguishment in the environmental health field within North Carolina. Applications to be sent to:

Angela Sowers at: [asowers@orangecountync.gov](mailto:asowers@orangecountync.gov)



Scholarship applications are due by June 30th, 2023

Award Nominations are due by June 30th, 2023

Bill Broadway Award,  
Stacey Covil EHS of Year Award,  
Rookie EHS of Year Award,

Nominations are due by June 30th, 2023



NORTH CAROLINA  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION  
N. C. Public Health Association, Inc.  
Affiliated with the National Environmental Health Association, Inc.



## Accreditation

The Master of Science in environmental health (MSEH) program is accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC). Such accreditation makes our students eligible to apply for great internship and scholarship opportunities that are only available for EHAC-accredited programs and makes our graduates eligible for appointment in the U.S. uniformed services (e.g., U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Navy).

## Program Options

**Research Option:** Students work with EH professors on research on the ECU campus and may be offered graduate assistantship positions (depending on funding availability).

**Applied Option:** Students may complete the degree entirely online. This option requires significant education and/or work experience in environmental health sciences or a closely related discipline (e.g., completion of an undergraduate environmental health or environmental science degree, and/or several years of work experience in air, water, food quality/protection, occupational health, vector/infectious disease control, etc.).

## Why a degree in Environmental Health (EH)?

Environmental health professionals are dedicated to improving the quality of life and health through environmental health protection and promotion. This leads to high-quality career satisfaction and continued professional growth. EHS graduates hold exciting jobs and possess a strong sense of civic duty.

## Admissions

The basic requirements for regular admission to the ECU Graduate School are a minimum 2.7/4.0 undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) or a 3.0/4.0 post-graduate/graduate GPA. MSEH program admission also requires previous completion of about 30 hours of undergraduate or post-graduate natural science coursework (biology [including anatomy and/or physiology], chemistry, physics, geology, geography, environmental science, etc.). The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for the MSEH.

## Follow us on:



@ECUEHS



@ECU\_EHS




@ecu\_environmentalhealth

More information about the degrees offered by the program is available at [hhp.ecu.edu/hep](http://hhp.ecu.edu/hep)



## Environmental Health at WCU

The Environmental Health (ENVH) Program is focused on the protection of human health from biological, chemical, and physical hazards in the environment. The program includes an exciting and engaging curriculum of courses in the basic and applied sciences. The WCU Environmental Health Program is one of less than 30 programs nationally accredited by the [National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council \(EHAC\)](#) .



## Master of Health Sciences

This is a 100% online program designed for new graduates and working adults with backgrounds in healthcare administration and business, health-related education, or clinical practice who aspire to leadership roles in the industry.

### 100% Online Program Focused on Public Health Principles



The Master of Health Sciences (MHS) degree prepares graduates to fill important and diverse leadership roles across the health system. All students complete core courses in healthcare policy, epidemiology, statistics and research methodology. Students select one concentration from four options for more in-depth study – health education, health management, emergency medical care, and nutrition. The culminating capstone experience provides relevant, real-world application of the knowledge gained throughout the program.

---

MHS Program Director, Dr. Katie Pincura  
Health and Human Sciences, Room 108  
[kpincura@wcu.edu](mailto:kpincura@wcu.edu)  
828.227.2662

## North Carolina Environmental Health State of Practice Committee



*Training by Specialists for Specialists*

<http://ncehsop.org/cms-sop/>

2023 UPDATE:

### **Transitional Permitting: Food Service and Renovated Spaces**

February 7-9, 2023

Eastern AHEC Building, Greenville, NC

This course explores the various aspects of transitional permitting to ensure that food establishments meet the requirements of the North Carolina Food Code and the Rules Governing the Sanitation of Food Establishments (15A NCAC 18A .2600). Target audience: Environmental Health Specialists, Supervisors, Program Specialists, and Coordinators working at local health departments.

Day 1:

- Introduction to Transitional Permitting
- Legal Transfers to Ownership
- Communications
- Wells and Water Supply
- On-site Water Protection and Transitional Permitting
- HACCP Plans and Variance Requests
- Menu Review

Day 2:

- Food Service Equipment
- Lodging, Mobile Food Units, Pushcarts
- Transitional Permits from Start to Finish
- How to Write Transitional Permits

Day 3:

- Issue a Transitional Permit
- Panel Discussion/ Participant questions

Registration:

Please visit [ncehsop.org](http://ncehsop.org) to register. Conference fee is \$125.

Max 50 Participants

CE Hours:

17.5 CE hours will be applied for to the North Carolina State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners.





## NC STATE Soils and Onsite Wastewater Continuing Education Workshops

The Department of Crop and Soil Sciences offers continuing education workshops across the state of North Carolina each year. Workshops are designed as 3-hour and 6-hour events to serve the professional needs of wastewater and soils professionals .

<b>Training For:</b>	<b>2022 Training Schedule</b>
Septic System Installers and Inspectors	<b>Raleigh:</b> May, Nov, Dec
Environmental Health Specialists	<b>Mills River:</b> Aug, Sept
Wastewater Operators	<b>Greensboro:</b> September
Soil Scientists	<b>Wanchese:</b> October
Professional Engineers	<b>Monroe:</b> October

<b>Raleigh, NC</b>	<b>Mills River, NC</b>
<b>Design 220: Pump System Design</b>	<b>Install 220: Installation of Mountain Pumps</b>
May 16, 2023	<a href="#">March 3, 2023</a>
6 hours	6 hours
9:00am-4:30pm	9:00am-4:30pm
\$200	\$200
WPCSOCC CE07140013	WPCSOCC CE05271505
<b>Install 210: Back to Basics – Dig &amp; Learn</b>	
May 18, 2023	
6 hours	
9:00am-4:30pm	
\$200	
WPCSOCC CE05271503	

**Registration Information**

**3-hour and 6-hour Workshops**  
Workshops designed for 6 hours will not be split to accommodate only 3 hours of training. If you need only 3 hours, please register for a 3-hour workshop.

**Mail to:**  
NC State University – Crop & Soil Science  
Attn: Jamie Luther  
4000 Chi Road  
Raleigh, NC 27603



## North Carolina Public Health Association

### **2022 FALL CONFERENCE:**

The 2022 Fall Educational Conference was held September 14-16th, 2022 in Wilmington, NC. Here are some pictures from the EH session for *Legal Presentations & Panel Discussion for Environmental Health Practitioners*. The presentation and joint panel discussion included John Schaeffer from NC Attorney Generals' Office, and Tim Crissman, NCDHHS, Regional Soil Scientist, Onsite Water Protection Branch.



Stay tuned for information on the 2023 Fall Education Conference being held September 27th-29th in Concord. If you are interested in becoming a member of the EH section of NCPHA please reach out to Kim Dittmann listed below.

#### **Contact Info:**

NC Public Health Association  
222 N. Person Street, Suite 208, Raleigh, NC 27601  
919-828-6205  
[kdittmann@ncapha.org](mailto:kdittmann@ncapha.org)





## NEHA AEC 2023 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

July 31-August 3, 2023

**New Orleans, Louisiana (Hilton New Orleans Riverside) and Virtually**

The NEHA AEC is so much more than a conference. It is the nexus for environmental health training, education, networking, and advancement. NEHA's AEC is the most comprehensive training and education investment your organization can make to achieve immediate and long-term benefits.

- Acquire practical and real-world information and expertise from like-minded professionals that share your passion for environmental health.
- Leave trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance your organization and yourself.
- Gain the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to help solve your organization's daily and strategic challenges and improve your bottom-line results.

Earn continuing education (CE) credit to maintain your professional credential(s).

**Registration opens December 1st, 2022.**

### **InFORM Regional Meetings:**

In partnership with CDC, they are hosting a series of three Integrated Foodborne Outbreak Response and Management (InFORM) Regional Meetings in early 2023. The meetings will encompass joint and discipline-specific sessions for environmental health specialists, epidemiologists, laboratory scientists, health communicators, and other federal, state, and local public health officials involved with foodborne and enteric disease outbreak response. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and share knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned with other public health professionals in their region.

- East Regional Meeting, Greenville, South Carolina | January 24 – 25, 2023
- West Regional Meeting, San Diego, California | January 31 – February 1, 2023
- Central Regional Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri | February 14 – 15, 2023

<https://www.neha.org/aec-register>  
<https://www.neha.org/inform>

## CONFERENCE FOR FOOD PROTECTION

2023 Biennial Meeting Houston, Texas | April 24 - 28



The Conference for Food Protection is a non-profit organization which originated in 1971. It was created to provide a formal process whereby members of industry, regulatory, academia, consumer, and professional organizations are afforded equal input in the development and/or modification of food safety guidance. Such guidance is incorporated into food safety laws and regulations at all levels of government throughout the United States.

The Conference for Food Protection promotes food safety and consumer protection by the following:

- Identifying and addressing problems in the production, processing, packaging, distribution, sale, and service of foods;
- Focusing on and facilitating the food protection programs governing the foodservice, retail food store, and food vending segments of the food industry;
- Adopting sound, uniform procedures which will be accepted by food regulatory agencies and industry;
- Promoting mutual respect and trust by establishing a working liaison among governmental agencies, industry, academic institutions, professional associations, and consumer groups concerned with food safety;
- Promoting uniformity among States, territories, and the District of Columbia. Territories include American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, The Trust Territory, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and
- Utilizing the following as the primary channels for dissemination of Information:
  - The U.S. Department of Agriculture/Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in matters under its purview, such as food production, meat and poultry processing, and consumer information; and
  - The U.S. Public Health Service/Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in matters under its purview, such as food processing, and assistance to food regulatory agencies based on the model food codes and related documents.

## EHS In the News

### Dr. Humphrey Featured in Washington Post Article on Septic Tanks

April 13, 2022



Dr. Humphrey, professor from ECU, was featured in a Washington Post Article for his research on Climate Change and the effects on septic tanks in North Carolina.

Dr. Humphrey’s research focuses on wastewater management, water quality and soil science. Read the full Washington Post article: [Backed-up pipes, stinky yards: Climate change is wrecking septic tanks](#)

Benjamin Abel reported that Dr. Sinan Sousan, an assistant professor at the Brody School of Medicine — joined by Dr. Jo Anne Balaney and Public Health and Honors College student Omar Chaaban, of ECU’s College of Health and Human Performance confirmed that while N95 respirator masks are more expensive and a bit less comfortable, they offer much greater protection against catching COVID-19 and other airborne infections than reusable cloth face coverings.



*A N95 mask is tested in an ECU laboratory to validate effectiveness in preventing transmission of respiratory contaminants.*

Read the ECU News article: [Breathing easy: ECU researchers prove respirator effectiveness against airborne pathogens](#)

### Dr. Iverson Receives Environmental Enhancement Grant for CAFO Research

December 5, 2022



The NC Attorney General, Josh Stein, recently announced that Dr. Guy Iverson received \$175,001 as part of the Environmental Enhancement Grant Program to preserve natural resources and ensure clean air and drinking water in eastern North Carolina. His award titled, “Mitigating Nutrient Loads from a CAFO in the Cape Fear River Basin” will study the impact of an engineered practice to mitigate the environmental impact of a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO).

## State Environmental Health Section Update by Larry Michael, State Environmental Health Director

It's early December as I write this update and a great time to reflect on the past year—and it's been a very busy one in the rulemaking space. A significant portion of our rulemaking efforts center around re-adoption of environmental health rules in Subchapter 18A. As you may recall, G.S. 150B-21.3A requires all state agencies to review existing rules every ten years. During the review, it was determined that 97 rules would need to be re-adopted. Because of the number of rules, the Rules Review Commission approved a three-phase process spread over a four-year period. We are now entering Phase 3 (Phase 1 started in October 2019). To date, we have re-adopted all, or portions of the following rules: food protection, private well, childhood lead poisoning prevention, inspection fee, and institution rules. In addition, the child care rules are in process and slated for re-adoption in early 2023. Finally, in Phase 3, we will be re-adopting portions of the camp, local confinement, public swimming pool, and residential care facility rules. So, by March 1, 2024 (re-adoption deadline), we will have completed updating all 97 rules. At some point in your environmental health career, I challenge you to participate in the rulemaking process. Rulemaking is a rather daunting and lengthy process, but the reward at the end far outweighs the pain. Currently, we have approximately 400 rules, so there will always be ample opportunities!

We also had rulemaking activity unrelated to the re-adoption process. The public swimming pool rules were amended to incorporate requirements for spas operating at temporary events (to help prevent Legionnaire's disease). The Section's Lead and Asbestos Branch adopted rules to implement a new program that provides \$150M for the testing and remediation of lead in drinking water in public schools and the inspection for and abatement of asbestos and lead-paint hazards in public schools and child care centers.

Regarding legislative activity, the short session was focused on the on-site wastewater side of environmental health. Session Law [2022-11](#) provides a delayed effective date for the on-site wastewater "18E" rules. This will provide us adequate time to conduct necessary training and implementation of the new 18E rules for local health departments and industry and to also work with stakeholders on any necessary language tweaks. This law also sunsets Section 3.19 of Session Law 2020-97 that allows Licensed Soil Scientists (LSS) to evaluate, inspect, and approve on-site wastewater system projects. This law will expire on January 1, 2023. Other provisions in this law provides relief to LHD's by removing the need to visit sites that LSSs and Authorized Onsite Wastewater Evaluators have evaluated and provided wastewater system designs and removes the requirement to conduct private drinking water well grouting inspections.

Before I jump to 2023, I hope you had a chance to review the [Environmental Health Section's FY 2021-22 Annual Report](#). Looking ahead, I anticipate the upcoming long session (starting in January 2023) will be a busy one for environmental health. There's been a lot of discussion concerning REHS education and experience related to recruitment and retention. I mention this specifically so that it's on your radar, but please reach out if you see any bills that impact our profession so that we can work together to ensure we support changes that are based on sound science and environmental health principles. There's a number of ways to get involved in your profession—promoting environmental health through local media, volunteering your time on various committees, joining a rules review workgroup, participating in professional organizations, and many other opportunities.

With that in mind, I'll leave you with a quote from one of my favorite characters as you think about 2023:

*"Takin' on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse. If you're comfortable while you're doin' it, you're probably doin' it wrong." --Ted Lasso*



## NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# North Carolina Impacted by Texas Oyster Recall; Illnesses Reported

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Dec. 14, 2022

Contact: [news@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:news@dhhs.nc.gov)  
919-855-4840

RALEIGH — [A recall has been issued](#) for any shell and shucked oysters harvested in the southeastern Galveston Bay known as TX1 between Nov. 17 and Dec. 7, 2022. North Carolina restaurants and stores may be impacted by this recall, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today announced.

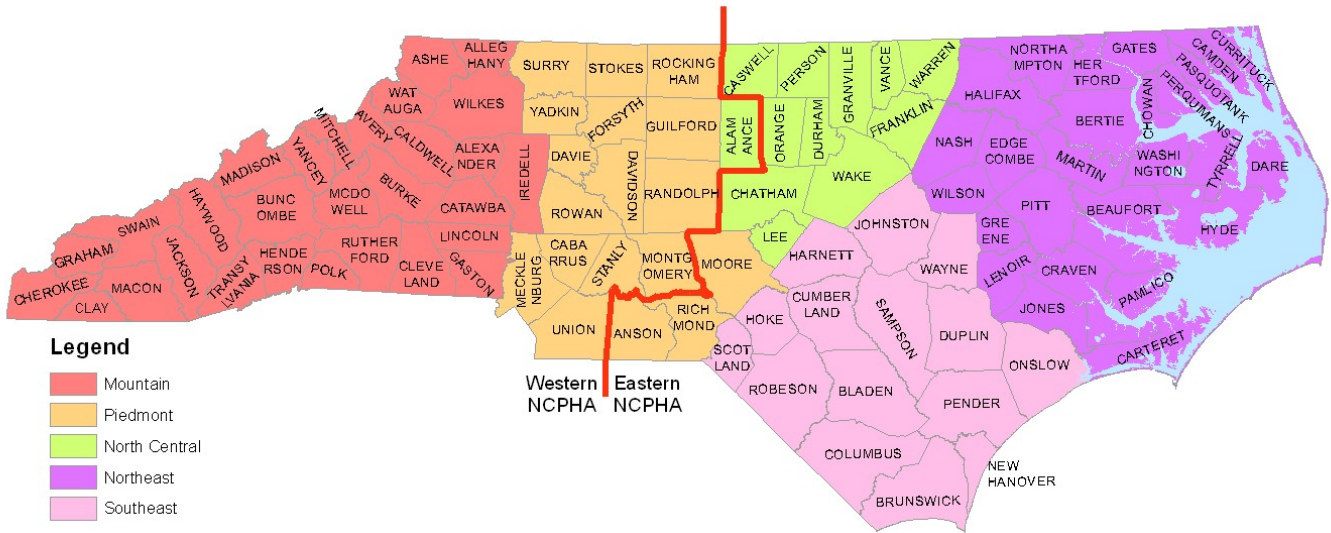
The NCDHHS Division of Public Health has been made aware of gastrointestinal illness in people in North Carolina who reported eating oysters associated with this recall. There have been numerous cases nationwide. NCDHHS and the NC Department of Environmental Quality have been working in partnership with local health departments to ensure food establishments are aware of the recall, the recalled product is discarded and any illness complaints are reported.

Consumers who purchased Texas oysters since Nov. 17 should check the packaging to see if they were harvested in the TX1 area. If the oysters were unpackaged, they should contact the seller to find the source. Restaurants should contact their distributor for information on the source of their oysters. Any oysters from TX1 should be discarded.

Consuming raw, lightly cooked or undercooked oysters can have risk of illness. Some viruses that can be found in oysters may even survive the cooking process. Pregnant women, elderly people and people with compromised immune systems are at greater risks.

Anyone currently experiencing an oyster-related illness such as fever, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, chills and headache should seek medical attention. To report an oyster-related illness [please contact your local health department](#).

# District News



If you want to update your district's news and information featured in the next issue of the NCPHA Environmental Health Section Newsletter, please contact [amanda\\_nester@onslowcountync.gov](mailto:amanda_nester@onslowcountync.gov)

- This can include (not limited to):
- Section Membership Updates
    - Accomplishments
  - Current hot topics or court cases
  - Requests for award nominations





**NCPHA-ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION DISTRICT OFFICERS**

District	President	Vice-President	Treasurer	Secretary	Past President
<b><u>NCPHA Env Health Section</u></b>	Angela Sowers Orange County HD 131 W. Margaret Lane Hillsborough, NC 27278 Office: (919) 245-2368 Cell: (919) 612-1256 asowers@orangecountync.gov	Kathryn Hobby Orange County HD 131 W Margaret Lane Hillsborough NC 27278 Office: (919) 245-2377 khobby@orangecountync.gov	Ashley Mize Forsyth County HD 799 Highland Avenue Winston-Salem, NC 27101 Office: (336) 703-3382 Cell: (336) 830-0717 mizeac@forsyth.cc	Amanda Nester Onslow County HD 234 NW Corridor Blvd Jacksonville, NC 28546 Office: (910) 989-3092 Cell: (919) 437-7363 Aman- da_nester@onslowcountync.gov	Tonya Zimmerman NCDHHS 5605 Six Forks Rd. Raleigh, NC 27609 Office (704) 793-3057 to- nya.zimmerman@dhs.nc.gov
<b><u>Mountain District</u></b>	Savannah Kent Madison County HD 493 Medical Park Dr, Marshall, NC 28753 (828) 649-9598 skent@madisoncountync.gov	Nicole Parrish Haywood County Health Dept 157 Paragon Pkwy Suite 201 Clyde, NC 28721 (828) 452-6682 ni- cole.parrish@haywoodcountync.gov	Casey Radford Buncombe County Health De- partment 30 Valley St Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 250-5016 Ca- sey.radford@buncombecounty.org	Combined w/ Treasurer	Travis Monteith Jackson County Health Dept 538 Scotts Creek Road Suite 100 Sylva, NC 28779 (828) 587-8246 travismonteith@jacksonnc.org
<b><u>West Pied- mont District</u></b>	Jennifer Hatley Cabarrus County Health Dept. 300 Mooresville Rd. Kannapolis, NC 28081 (704) 920-1333 jen- nifer.hatley@cabarrushealth.org	Greg Gartner NC DHHS 5205 Six Forks Road Raleigh, NC 27609 (336) 590-2489 greg.gartner@dhs.nc.gov	Laura Jordan Cabarrus County Health Dept. 300 Mooresville Rd. Kannapolis, NC 28081 (704) 920-1207 Laura.jordan@cabarrushealth.org	Chris Sells Mecklenburg County Depart- ment of Public Health 3205 Freedom Drive, Suite 8000 Charlotte, NC 28208 (704) 507-6822 christo- pher.sells@mecklenburgcounty.nc.gov	Joseph Chrobak Forsyth County Department of Public Health 799 N Highland Ave, Winston- Salem, NC 27101 (336) 703-2618 chrobajb@forsyth.cc
<b><u>North Central District</u></b>	Alexandria Rimmer Alamance County Health De- partment 319 N. Graham-Hopedale Rd. Burlington, NC 27217 Phone: (336)570-6367 Ext. 10327 alex.rimmer@alamance-nc.com	Jordan Mazzara Durham County Department of Public Health 414 East Main Street Durham, North Carolina 27701 Office (919) 560-7800 jmazzara@dconc.gov	Moira Beck Alamance County Health Depart- ment 319 N. Graham-Hopedale Rd. Burlington, NC 27217 Phone: (336)570-6367 Ext. 10327 moira.beck@alamance-nc.com	Combined w/ Treasurer	Brandi G. Kim Durham County Department of Public Health 414 East Main Street Durham, North Carolina 27701 Office (919) 560-7800 bgkim@dconc.gov
<b><u>Northeast District</u></b>	Britney Hargett Pitt County Health Dept. 1717 West Fifth Street Greenville, NC 27834 (252)902-3211 Brit- ney.hargett@pittcountync.gov		VACANT	Combined w/ Treasurer	Vacant
<b><u>Southeast District</u></b>	Andrew Currin, REHS Harnett County Health Depart- ment 307 W. MorCornelius Harnett Blvd. Lillington, NC 27546 Acurrin@Harnett.org 910-893-7547 ext. 6286	Bryce Potter Johnston County Health Dept 309 East Market Street Smithfield, NC 27577 (919) 989-5180 bryce.potter@johnstonnc.com	Brilyn Parker Johnston County Health Dept 309 East Market Street Smithfield, NC 27577 (919) 989-5180 brilyn.parker@johnstonnc.com	Michael Roberson NCDHHS 1632 MSC Raleigh, NC 27699- 1632 (252) 269-0422 michael.roberson@dhs.nc.gov	Mark Osborne, REHS Sampson County Health Depart- ment 405 County Complex Rd. Clinton, NC 28328 910-592-4675 Mosborne@Sampsonnc.com
<b><u>Eastern District</u></b>	Thomas Privott Onsite Wastewater Supervisor Environmental Health Section Orange County HD 131 W Margaret Lane Hillsborough, NC 27278 (919) 245-23 tprivott@orangecountync.gov	Laura Lerch Durham County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Division 414 East Main Street Durham NC 27701 (919)560-7818 llerch@dconc.gov	Amanda Cabiness Warren County Health Depart- ment 544 W. Ridgeway Street Warrenton, N.C. 27589 (252) 257-1538 x 6079 amandacab- iness@Warrencountync.gov	Jennifer Edwards Wake County Environmental Services 336 Salisbury St Raleigh, N.C. 27602 (919) 868-2570 jen- nifer.edwards@wakegov.com	Victoria Hudson Environmental Health Director Orange County HD 131 W Margaret Lane Hillsborough, NC 27278 (919) 245-2365 vhudson@orangecountync.gov

If you want your article featured in the next issue of the NCPHA Environmental Health Section Newsletter, please contact one of the section officers!!

### **Resolutions Committee Report – September 2022**

The EH Section of NCPHA would like to recognize those individuals that retired from the field of EH this past year and remember those individuals that passed away.

The individuals that retired this past year are:

Greg Hennessee	Davidson County	March 25, 2022
Monica Kiker	Union County	September 1, 2022
Andy Smith	Northampton County	May 27, 2022
Andre Pierce	Wake County	January 1, 2022
Beth Lovette	DPH	September 8, 2022
Dwayne Graham	DHHS	August 27, 2022
Lena Williams	DHHS	January 1, 2022
Charles Dial	Transylvania County	April 30, 2022
*Darin Melton	Cleveland County	November 1, 2022
*Ozzie Newman	Sampson County	December 2022

The individuals that passed away this past year are:

Larry Smith	Guilford County	
Mike Hoover (Trish Angoli's husband)	Professor, NCSU Soil Science Dept	September 5, 2022

