

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NAEP

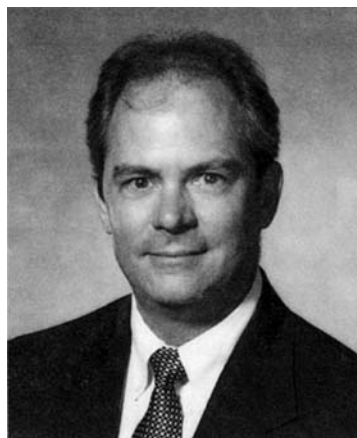
Bruce Hasbrouck

This will be my last message as President of NAEP. The last two years have been extremely rewarding for me professionally to see the growth we have experienced. As I look through the various issues of *Environmental Practice*, the quality of the journal is quite evident. Furthermore, the future issues will prove to be consistent with the level of quality that has been provided to you as a member of the organization.

It has been a challenge to the leadership to assure that we're making the best use of our communication tools, including the journal, NAEP's E-news, the Web site, and direct mailing and e-mail communications. The transition of the journal during the last four years has gone from a mixture of news and technical papers to almost a purely technical publication of peer-reviewed manuscripts, book reviews, and points-of-views. The electronic newsletter is intended to be a monthly method of providing updates on NAEP activities, upcoming and past Chapter events, and news of interest for environmental professionals. The Web site has transitioned into a tool for doing business as well as a method of communication.

Each of these efforts has come as a result of countless hours of work by volunteers, all of whom are practicing professionals. In my opinion, this is what makes NAEP one of the best professional organizations for scientists. Decisions are made by and implemented by individuals who are completely in tune with the daily issues confronted by our members.

Professionalism is the cornerstone of our organization. The fact that our members are committed to our mission of promoting the highest levels of ethics and competency in the environmental professions is important. Education is a critical part of any professional organization; in fact, it is the primary requirement for a non-profit organization to obtain the 501(c)(3) tax sta-



tus. By providing multiple opportunities for increasing one's knowledge and understanding of the issues associated with our everyday practice, NAEP assures that our members will continue to increase your level of competency.

Creating these opportunities for learning is the primary responsibility of a professional organization. NAEP does that through the Annual Conference, Working Groups, support for local chapters, networking opportunities, publications, and other meetings. This year's conference in Dearborn will continue our established tradition of providing a top-notch venue that will give multiple opportunities for our members. Through extensive involvement with the Michigan Chapter, a portion of the conference will directly appeal to a large number of members in the Great Lakes region of the country. The variety of technical tracks will address issues associated with the practice of almost all of our members.

The Working Groups continue to grow and adjust with the needs of the organization and the leadership provided by each of the chairs. These efforts are just like many other things in our lives; the more one puts into the group, the more one receives. Each of the Working Groups is filled with technical experts that are willing to provide their perspective for specific areas of practice. I encourage you to get involved with one of the Working Groups and see how much you can benefit.

The NAEP Board meetings are held quarterly to handle the business of NAEP. As a volunteer-run organization, these meetings are critical to the success of our organization. This is the time that new ideas are debated, old issues re-hashed, and decisions finalized. The camaraderie that I've experienced at the meetings cannot be duplicated. Each meeting has had its idiosyncrasies; however, I've left every single meeting with a real feeling of accomplishment.

Networking is critical to the success of every professional. We've provided the venue for this on a national, statewide, and local basis. Various other opportunities are available on a more virtual platform. I anticipate this will be one of the new growth areas in the future. The Chapters continue to be the backbone of the organization, and NAEP will keep this a focus of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors as a whole.

Certainly this organization cannot be run without the services of the National Office and our Conference Coordinator. In addition to these full-time positions, we have advertised and are in the process of selecting a Membership Coordinator. This position will help identify the needs of the membership to assure we are meeting the expectations of each member, as well as looking to the future.

Finally, it is with great comfort that I look to the future of the organization. We have been fortunate to have such great leadership over the last 27 years, and I can assure you this will continue. Cynthia Fridgen will provide a fresh perspective while keeping many of the proven attributes of NAEP. Her clear vision of the role of an environmental professional in our practice, combined with her experiences in academia, will prove to be an excellent direction as the leader of this great association. The support of the Board of Directors, the professional staff of NAEP, and the membership will assure a successful organization.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to a myriad of people that have helped me over the last two years. With this support, we have become a real presence in Washington,

DC. We have given the Chapters increased support. We have greatly increased our regular communications with the membership. As a team, we have extended the vision and dreams of the founders of NAEP. To me, that is success. Again, thank you.

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WHERE ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR PRACTICE?

In March, the co-chair of the NAEP International Committee was invited to give the keynote speech at the Fourth meeting of the IUCN/WCPA-EA (World Conservation Union, World Conservation on Protected Areas in East Asia). Representatives from mainland China, Taiwan, North and South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Tibet, Outer Mongolia, Indonesia, and Hong Kong met to share experience on the management of protected areas in East Asia. The theme of the conference was "Benefits Beyond Boundaries." What an opportunity: to participate in a meeting that brought longtime adversaries together in common concern about the management of their forests, mountains, coastal habitats, and all the "critters" that live in or use them. From "Conservation of Cultures" to "Conservation of Mountain Ecosystems," the participants explored their common interests.

The NAEP International Committee invites you to participate in our activities. It is our goal to bring international experience to all of our national members and to share our experience with fellow professionals internationally. We welcome your participation.

For more information about the conference, or to become involved with the NAEP International Committee, contact Jim Roberts at jemsjar@attbi.com (540 Morris Way, Sacramento, CA, USA, 95864).

EXPAND THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR PRACTICE!