

Romantic Storm Water Getaways

Where does the storm water sampler take that someone special for Valentine's Day? Well, no worries, WGR is here again to bring practical ideas to your storm water dilemmas. In this edition of *The Rain Events* we are providing you with the top five romantic storm water getaway destinations for you and your valentine.

1. **The Wettest Place on Earth** – Take a trip to Cherrapunji situated in North East India in the Meghalaya State (Meghalaya means “Home of the clouds”). It is unbelievably the wettest place on the planet earth which receives the maximum rainfall in the world, holding a record that it once rained continuously every single day for two years. It made a world record of 1,041 inches of rain in 1861. North eastern part of India is full of natural treasures with lush green canopies, valleys, mountains, rocky hills, rivers, diverse flora and fauna. Orchards of oranges and pineapple are the common sight of Cherrapunji. It is an easy 37-mile drive from the state's capital Shillong. *Don't leave home without your rain gear!* (source: <http://hubpages.com/hub/The-wettest-place-on-Earth-Cherrapunji-India>)
2. **Shasta Public Library** – Located in Redding, California, the new library building is one of the first of its kind in Shasta County. It showcases such things as a rooftop garden, numerous solar panels, and thermal energy storage, as well as “*The Giving Tree*”, and several other donated pieces of art. You and your sweetheart can check out a book on Northern California climate while you sit in front of the picturesque window overlooking the green roof and a view of Mount Shasta in the distance. *An easy drive up Interstate 5, a visit to the library, a tour of the famous Sun Dial Bridge, and a visit to Lake Shasta to see how far the level has risen would make a perfect Valentine weekend.*
3. **SoCal Storm Drain Label Collection** – Take a weekend tour of Southern California to visit as many cities as you can to photograph storm drain labels. You and your honey can make a scrap book collection of the drain inlet labels to always remember this truly unforgettable experience. Be sure to note visual observations in your scrap book for each drain. *For the adventurous, find an illicit discharge and call the hotline number on the drain label!*
4. **San Francisco Treat** – Looking for something a little more classy? Take your date to Pier 39 in San Francisco! After sharing a world-famous chowder sourdough bread bowl, take a boat tour of San Francisco Bay and do your own narration of the local watershed. Finish off the day by taking out your guitar and serenading your sweetheart with the Beatles song, Rain!. *Tip: If you leave the guitar case open, you might even get your parking fee paid.*
5. **Cozy Night at Home** – Can't go out for the weekend and would prefer to stay home? If finances or time won't allow for any of the above ideas; that's OK you still can have a romantic storm water event at home. Prepare your favorite hot beverage, put on a nature mood CD of a spring rain shower, and sit with your loved one by the light of a laptop computer while you surf the internet looking at BMP websites and storm water videos. *You can start your evening with the new BMPoutlet.com website!*



"To Do List" for February:

- Monthly Storm Water Observations (Form 4)
- Storm Water Sampling (Most of you should have your 1st sample by now; go for your second one!)
- Quarterly Non-Storm Water Observations sometime between now and March 30 (Forms 2 & 3)
- Check to make sure that drain inserts are not full or needing attention.



The Compliance Corner . . .

How Conductive is your Storm Water? Part 2



Last month, we looked at what the electrical conductivity analysis measures when testing storm water. We discussed the controversy concerning the 200 umhos/cm benchmark. But this month, let's turn our attention to what causes conductivity to be elevated and how to prevent it from becoming a problem. Conductivity is an indication of the amount of substances dissolved in storm water; in particular, the amount of salts, or polar substances. Salts are substances that easily dissolve in water separating into electrically charged cations and anions. The conductivity measurement increases when there is more substance dissolved in the water to carry the electrical current. Unfortunately, just as it is nearly impossible to remove sugar from your ice tea once you have mixed it in, so it is extremely difficult to removed dissolved solids from storm water. Your best bet in reducing conductivity is to practice source reduction or pollution prevention. In other words, keep the dissolvable substances away from storm water. So what are common substances that elevate conductivity at industrial sites? The list includes, among other things, fertilizers and soil amendments, agriculture chemicals, concrete additives, water softeners, curing agents, boiler treatment chemicals, cooling tower chemicals or mist, and food industry sources. Other non-industrial sources include groundwater and salt deposits from marine water bodies. Elevated conductivity in storm water can be an indicator of the presence of groundwater, which tends to have conductivity above the storm water benchmarks. At facilities located in close proximity to a marine body of water, we have observed elevated conductivity from deposits of salt water mists and spray. Except for these non-industrial sources of conductivity, the best way to prevent elevated conductivity is to keep the source separated from storm water. Dissolvable substances should be managed within a structure that will prevent storm water from coming into contact with it. Outdoor areas that have dissolvable substances exposed to storm water should be contained. Discharge the accumulated storm water to a sanitary sewer connection or other approved location. A BMP practice we have seen effective for these outdoor areas is to divert the first flush to a sanitary sewer or wastewater system until conductivity measures below the benchmark. Conductivity can be easily and quickly tested on location with a portable field instrument.



We Have a Winner !!!

Ruthanne Walker submitted the winning answer!

What is the name and website address for your local Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Ruthanne has facilities in two different regions; the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 4) and the Santa Ana RWQCB (Region 8).

To find out the location and information for your local RWQCB, go to http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml

Ruthanne will receive a \$25 eGiftCard to



Hot off the Press!



The State Water Resources Control Board has released its new draft Industrial General Permit. There are significant changes in it! The proposed changes include numeric action limits, numeric effluent limits, increased inspections and sampling, mandatory on-site rain gauges, a qualification and certification process for SWPPP developers and practitioners, minimum BMPs, lower benchmark values, and a host of other things. You need to become knowledgeable about these proposed changes and voice your concern over them to the State Water Board. Now is time to do that. To download a copy of the proposed permit, go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.shtml

Next month, in the March edition of *The Rain Events*, **we will dedicate the entire newsletter to identifying the changes in this permit and identifying our concerns about it.** The State will hold two workshops on this proposed permit (see below). WGR will be attending them and providing comment. We urge you to do the same.

Hot News !

» **New!** Notice of Informal Staff Workshops: 2011 Draft Industrial General Permit.

Space is limited at both workshop venues but the CalEPA (2/14) workshop will be broadcast on the internet and we encourage people to listen in that way. February 14, 2011, [CalEPA webcast information](#).

Northern California Workshop:

Monday 2/14/2011
9:00am - 12:00pm
CalEPA Building - Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Venue: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPA/bldg/location.htm>
Capacity: 140 people
[CalEPA webcast information](#)

Southern California Workshop:

Wednesday 2/23/2011
10am - 2:00pm (1 hour lunch)
Irvine City Council Chambers
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606-5208
Venue: http://www.cityofirvine.org/maps/popups/irvine_city_hall.asp
Capacity: 200 people



February STORM WATER CONTEST

Try it out! You can win!

By February 28, submit a response for the following question by email to jteravskis@wgr-sw.com .

What is the frequency of sampling in the proposed Industrial General Permit?

All persons submitting correct answers will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a \$25 eGiftCard to 

Announcing the New and Improved Webstore!

bmpoutlet.com has a new look with an easier to use menu and shopping cart. New storm water BMPs are being added nearly every week. Need some BMP ideas? Need something special for your valentine?

Check out bmpoutlet.com !



Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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