

## Upcoming Events

APRIL HOLIDAYS (AOWB  
CLOSED; ADPH CLOSED)  
04/22/24

UPCOMING CONTINUING  
EDUCATION:

TRADE SHOW!! 04/11 &  
4/12

CALL 334-396-3434 TO  
REGISTER

AOWB BOARD MEETING  
04/18/2024

MAY HOLIDAYS (AOWB  
CLOSED; ADPH CLOSED)  
05/27/2024

JUNE HOLIDAYS (AOWB  
CLOSED; ADPH CLOSED)  
06/03/2024

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## The **SCOOP** FROM AOWB NEWS YOU CAN USE!



### Located at:

**60 Commerce Street, Suite 1050**

**Montgomery, AL 36104**

**Office Phone Number: 334-353-9250**

**Website address: [www.aowb.alabama.gov](http://www.aowb.alabama.gov)**

**REMINDER – AOWB NO LONGER HAS A FAX MACHINE;  
CALL THE OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EMAIL**

## A WORD FROM MELISSA:

Greetings to all Licensees! Its hard to believe that April is here. Renewal season is right around the corner. We are still sitting with 200 individuals that have not renewed for 2024. If you aren't on the website roster, you should call the office as soon as possible.

**NEW DATABASE SYSTEM!** After 23 years using the same database, we are almost ready to go live with a much new and improved database. There will be automated emails going out weekly, monthly and some daily. **If you need to update your email address, please do so as soon as possible.** There will be several items going out via email from the new database.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2024!

### **AOWA CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2024 – CALL 334-396-3434 TO REGISTER**

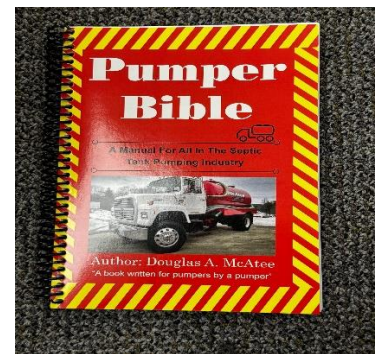
AOWA ANNUAL TRADE SHOW - April 11 & 12, 2024, Davis Farms, Phenix City, AL  
September 12, 2024 - Homebuilders Association of Alabama; Montgomery, AL  
October 18, 2024 - The Event Center at Roto-Rooter, Huntsville, AL  
November 7, 2024 - Mobile Convention Center; Mobile, AL  
December 5, 2024 - Homebuilders Association of Alabama; Montgomery, AL

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### **UWA CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES FOR 2024 – CALL 205-652-3803 TO REGISTER**

March 28, 2024 - John Archer Ag Center; Mobile AL  
May 9, 2024 - Lake Gunterstate State Park; Gunterstate AL  
September 5, 2024 - Pelham Civic Complex; Pelham AL  
October 10, 2024 - Joe Wheeler State Park; Rogersville AL  
December 5, 2024 – UWA; Livingston AL

I look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming class near you! **(WITH MAGNETS AND PUMPER BIBLES WRITTEN BY NONE OTHER THAN DOUG McATEE of PUMPER NATION!**



## MEET HANNAH! YOUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



As an Administrative Assistant at the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board, I bring a unique blend of experience and youthful energy to the team.

At just 22 years old, I have already amassed four years of valuable experience in the medical field, where I honed my organizational and communication skills. I am a proud graduate of Prattville High, class of 2020.

I am dedicated to supporting our board's mission with efficiency and a keen eye for detail. Outside of work, my role as a mother to my one-year-old son, Ryder, has taught me the art of balance, commitment, and patience.

I am grateful to be a part of the team and with God's guidance, I strive to make a positive impact at the AOWB.

We are excited to have Hannah join the AOWB. In her role, she will be your first point of contact. She will have all the info you need on CEU, bonds, renewal status, hours, keeping your files audited. We are excited that she will have our AOWB Facebook page up and running by May 1 of this year. Please feel free to email or call on Hannah at any time regarding any assistance you may need, and she will direct you appropriately. Feel free to email to welcome her!

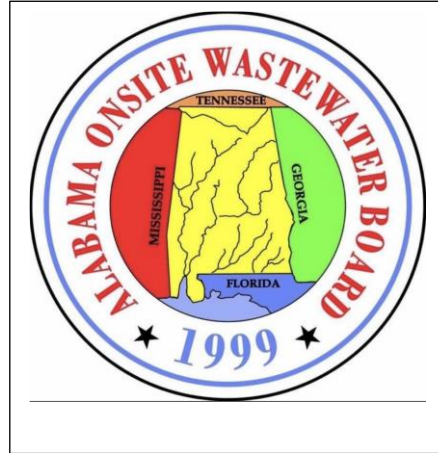
[hannah.hollon@aowb.alabama.gov](mailto:hannah.hollon@aowb.alabama.gov)

**A HINT FROM HANNAH:** Why am I getting letters in the mail saying my license is suspended due to my bond:

These letters are sent out to every licensee who does not have an updated bond in our system. The letter is sent out to “grab your attention” and is there as a **reminder** to send your bond continuation to the AOWB (your insurance company should do this however, a vast majority of them do not). FOLLOW UP IS THE KEY! Without an up-to-date bond, you are not licensed to do **ANY** work until it is sent in.

## **AOWB RECOGNIZES THE INDUSTRY'S MOST SENIOR LICENSEE!!**

### ***MR. EARL KERR***



At the age of 91, an exemplary licensee holding a manufacturers license with no complaints ever filed against him, Mr. Earl Kerr was born July 29, 1932 in Centre, AL and has been in the business of manufacturing concrete tanks for 47 years. Mr. Kerr was part of the voluntary certification program that was offered through the Alabama Department of Public Health and obtained his license with the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board at its inception in 1999.

Mr. Kerr had to withdraw from school in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to help work on the family farm. When he was 19 years old, he met and married Miss Annie Agan. Within a year, he was drafted into the Army and served in the Korean War from 1953-1955. After the war, he worked several odd jobs including driving a concrete mixer and pastored a church part-time.

He grew a passion for the concrete industry and started finishing concrete for a living. In 1977, when he was 45 years old, he bought a used cement silo and 2 used concrete mixers and started what is now Kerr's Redi Mix Inc. The septic tank manufacturing business was added a few years later. Kerr's Redi Mix is in their 47<sup>th</sup> year of business, producing 25K-30K yds per year, plus the septic tank manufacturing. Earl D. Kerr is still active in the business at 91years old, along with his wife of 72 years and 4 children.

We applaud your good business practices and hard work over the years. Thank you for your service to the industry Mr. Kerr!

## **CONGRATULATIONS MR. KERR ON A JOB WELL DONE!!**

## FROM THE DESK OF JOEL BARNES COMPLIANCE DIVISION



Hello, AOWB licensees, from the AOWB enforcement (compliance) division. I wanted to take some time to talk to you about some of the most frequent code violations that our licensees are charged with when we complete our investigations into complaints against them. Complaints come from homeowners, ADPH environmentalists, other licensees, and the public at large. If we discuss some of these issues, and some ways to avoid them, perhaps we can cut down on complaints, save us all some time and money, and make our industry look a lot better.

**Code 420-3-1-.05 – Requirements for an OSS/EDS. – The installation of an OSS shall comply with the requirements and conditions of its permit.** I once received a call about a failing system. It turned out that the permit called for a pump. The installer did not include a pump in the install. He said, “I saw that it was going to gravity feed just fine.” I showed him a copy of the permit and told him that he cannot deviate from the requirements of the permit. If the permit calls for a pump, the system is required to have a pump, no exceptions.

**Code 420-3-1-.06 – Permits Required for an OSS/EDS. – Anyone installing an OSS must have a valid permit from the LHD. – The LHD shall be notified of a modification or repair to a system.**

Never begin an install without a permit from your local health department. When you get caught or reported, you risk being fined, you risk your reputation, you risk my trust and the LHD’s trust in you, and you risk the homeowner’s ability to get an Approval for Use for the OSS. If something happens and the system fails, the LHD will know that the system was done without a permit and the homeowner will want a working system and is usually co-operative when the investigation begins. Also, if you are called to repair a system, call the LHD before you begin the work. Some things do not require a repair permit, but some repairs may require you to get one, or sometimes, a verbal permit can be given but the LHD will have a record of you contacting them and will be willing to help you if you need it. I once received a tip about an installer working on a system without a permit. As I exited my vehicle and walked up to him, he just hung his head. He had met me for the first time just a few days before, on a goodwill visit, and knew he had been caught. As I was leaving the property, he had already contacted the local environmentalist about a permit. It’s not hard guys. Get your permits.

**Code 420-3-1-.08 – OSS/EDS Installation. – Not affording the LHD an opportunity to inspect. – Did not contact LHD prior to installing. – Notify LHD of any problems encountered. – Must provide CEP-5 within 3 days of completion of system.**

Call your local health department to arrange an inspection of your system. LHD environmentalists are available at their offices on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 9AM. If you miss them, leave a message. They must have an opportunity to inspect your work before you cover. If there are constraints due to time, weather, or unforeseen circumstances, they may let you self-certify and cover without a site visit. If you are working and discover that the layout on the plot plan won't work, or encounter other problems, stop, and make a phone call. You can get some guidance and save yourself some trouble, and a visit from me, later. TURN IN YOUR CEP-5's within 3 business days. I get too many phone calls from environmentalists about this. It's simple. Just do it.

**Code 420-3-6-.23(1) – Sewage Tank Pumping Permit - A person proposing to be a sewage tank pumper shall obtain a permit (or permits) issued by the LHD(s) in each county where said sewage tank pumper operates a sewage tank pumper facility and in accordance with the requirements listed.**

Get your permits. An environmentalist once followed a pumper to his own lake house (for the purpose of pumping his own tank), which was in a neighboring county that he was not permitted in and got him for operating without a permit. Get permitted in the counties you pump in.

**Code 420-3-6-.23(6) – Sewage Tank Pumping Permit – A permitted sewage tank pumping contractor, when pumping a sewage tank, shall effectively and completely remove the liquid and solids in the tank by removing the inspection ports at both ends of the tank or the lids covering both ends of the tank, where inspection ports are not provided, AND PUMP ALL COMPARTMENTS.**

We get this complaint more often than we should. When performing a pump out, **YOU MUST PUMP OUT BOTH THE INLET AND OUTLET SIDES OF THE TANK.** Period. If you cannot access both sides, because someone built a porch on top of the tank or poured a concrete driveway over one end of the tank or built an addition onto the house and there is a wall on top of the tank, etc., take pictures and make note of it on the invoice, so that you can protect yourself.

**The five code violations listed above are the most common violations that we see when conducting investigations into complaints. As you can see, these can be avoided, and in most instances, communication with the LHD is key. I do not enjoy writing up a report involving a violation that could have been avoided with a phone call. Most of us have phones (some have always more than one) on our hip or in a pocket. When in doubt, make a call and avoid a code violation. Most importantly of all, make sure you make it home at the end of the day. Be safe out there.**

## TIDBITS FROM TRACY!



Do you complete regular maintenance on your vehicles? ***I would certainly hope so!*** Every year maintenance should be completed on your steering/suspension, brake system, oil and oil filter and coolant/antifreeze. Your vehicle is important to you and to your business, and so you know that you must do what is required.

Just as your vehicle is important to your business, your license is also important to your business. Every year you have some “*maintenance*” to complete for your ***Onsite Wastewater license***. As an active license holder, you must meet the continuing education requirement for your license; make sure your bond is updated each year by providing a copy to AOWB, and finally ***renew*** your license between ***October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>*** for the upcoming year. Any renewals after December 31<sup>st</sup>, will accrue a late fee.

If you have any questions regarding the renewal of your license, call the office and we will be glad to check your file and answer any questions. (334) 353-9250

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT OF THE QUARTER



Pictured here is Mark Donaldson (left) and Ronnie Roland (right)

### MARK DONALDSON – AAA GRADING AND SEPTIC – ASHFORD, AL

After sharing his story with me a few months back, Mark Donaldson wanted to “give back” which is an honorable attribute for a person. Mark is very active in the Christian Mission Center in Enterprise, Alabama.

Under the leadership of Reverend John Belcher, The Christian Mission Center is a faith-based Mission Center that exists to help meet the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all the people they minister to. Their purpose is achieved through various ministries dedicated to impacting broken, lost, and hurting people. The Christian Mission Centers offer the following: A Food Ministry, Emergency Needs, Emergency Shelter, and the New Life Recovery Program. The Christian Mission Centers also has several properties that it rents out to individuals at a subsidized rate.

There was a trailer on County Road 723 that was to be rented out to a family working diligently with the Benevolence Counselor to get their life back together. The trailer needed a septic system. I, along with Mandy Simmons (with Christian Mission Center) assisted Mark in moving forward with his project. He needed a septic tank, field lines, and equipment along with pvc pipe, (the basics). Mark’s dream of giving back was fulfilled. Licensees stepped up to assist. Ronnie Roland of Dothan donated a tank, time and equipment, Tony Ellenburg and Scott Strickland of Black Alabama donated the chamber. Mark installed the system himself. It was a beautiful day in Enterprise Alabama and a great way to give back! Thank you, Mark Donaldson!



Melissa Hines-AOWB with Rev. Belcher-Christian Mission



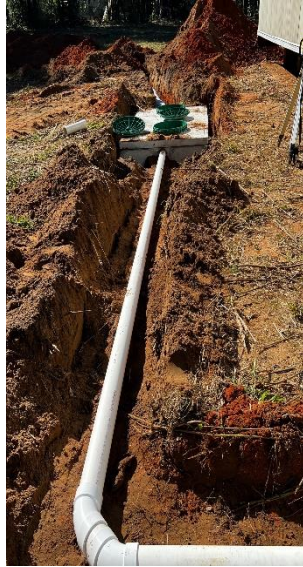
Reverend Belcher with Amanda Simmons!



This is the mobile home where the septic tank was installed.



A few snapshots of the install!



Interested in “Giving Back” or assisting someone in need? There are several ways to assist. Please feel free to reach out to me via email if there is a project or a known need in the community you live in. My email is [melissa.hines@aowb.alabama.gov](mailto:melissa.hines@aowb.alabama.gov) Continuing education credits can be earned on these types of projects as well.

We can lend a



**NEXT ISSUE OF AOWB NEWS WILL BE IN JULY!**

**ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE 334-353-9250**

