



The WAHI Inspector

Vol. XVI, No. 1

January 2012

Editor: Nicholas Petrie

Upcoming Meetings

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Wednesday, January 18

Social 6 p.m., dinner/meeting 6:30 p.m.

Palms Supper Club Steak House
5912 Bus. Hwy 51, Schofield

Speaker: A general contractor on new construction and remodeling

Chippewa Valley Chapter

Wednesday, January 11

Dinner 5:30 p.m., meeting 6 p.m.

Jade Garden Restaurant
3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire

Speaker: Larry Umlauf of Northern Aire Chimney Service, on flue liners.

Also: Christmas gathering on **Friday, January 20th**. See details on page 3.

Fox Valley Chapter

Tuesday, January 17

Roundtable 6 p.m., dinner 6:45 p.m.,
speaker 7:15 p.m.

Beefeaters British Grille & Ale House
2331 E. Evergreen Dr., Appleton

Visit the WAHI website for speaker details.

Madison Chapter

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Roundtable 6 p.m., dinner/meeting 6:30 p.m.,
speaker 7 p.m.

Rex's Inkeeper
301 N. Century Ave., Waunakee

Speaker: Ed Vacha of Radon Solutions on radon systems – inspecting & reporting.

Milwaukee Chapter

Tuesday, January 10

Social 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.

Klemmer's Banquet Center
10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., West Allis

Speaker: Kurt Soens of Smoke Stacks Inc. on safety concerns.

From the President



January is a great time to reflect and take a breath. The holidays are over, the snow may be flying, and the temperature is anywhere from cold to very cold to really very extremely cold.

What the heck do I do now?

Hopefully, I will be putting on my heavy winter gear and doing inspections. If not, it's time to plan for the future. I'll overhaul my tools

and my ladder, tuning them up for the busy spring, which will come, no matter how unlikely that may seem. I will also spend time going over my report yet again, to make sure that I am noting issues accurately, and that I am covering, at a bare minimum, each point in the Wisconsin Standards of Practice.

My marketing plan is also on my list. It's important to evaluate which marketing methods generated the most business last year, and which didn't quite measure up. I also consider new marketing ideas to implement for 2012. This is a winter ritual for me each year. When you run a business, as most of us do, these are essential steps to take on a regular basis to ensure that we can continue to run a business in the future.

It's not all looking forward. I also look back over the previous year, to congratulate myself on what I've accomplished in my own business, and also to note what WAHI has accomplished for its members. I am very proud of the Office Max discount card for all WAHI members. If you have not yet printed and used your membership card, you are missing out on real savings.

I am also proud of the Errors and Omissions insurance discount offered to WAHI members by Inspect Pro Insurance (aka Citadel Insurance Services, LLC). I have received a number of emails from members who, on average, say they are saving about twenty percent compared to rates from their former insurance carriers.

WAHI held its spring and fall seminars in 2011 and, as before, both were outstanding educational events that had top-notch speakers with great information for both new and seasoned inspectors. The review comments by attendees were again a positive sign that we, as an organization, provide great training events for our members.

President

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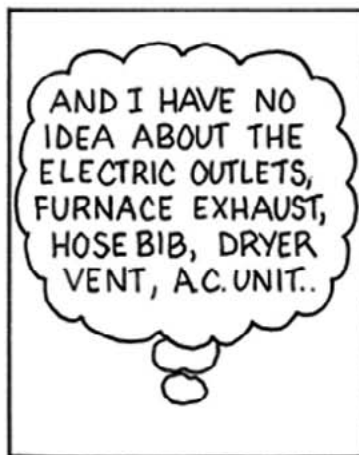
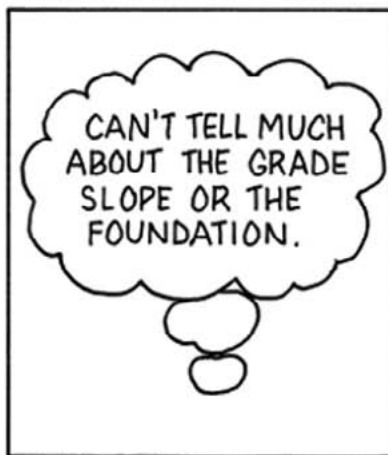
The board and its committees have been diligently working on projects that have been on hold for a time. The bylaws committee is moving forward with changes that will make the way we conduct business more easy to accomplish. The election committee has gotten us into the modern world with online voting. And our newsletter is now fully electronic, which saves us a great deal on printing and mailing costs.

As we move forward into the new year, I would like to thank all board members and the Chapter officers for the great work they do on behalf of all our members. These are the people who have volunteered their time to make WAHI the great organization it is.

Wishing all a very happy and prosperous new year!

Michael Von Gunten

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Chapter Meeting Highlights



Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at Palms Supper Club Steak House, 5912 Bus. Hwy 51 in Schofield. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend a monthly chapter meeting is \$25 with dinner or \$10 without the meal. Contact Rich Duerkop with any questions at 715-241-8222 or e-mail americansentry1@charter.net. Our speaker will be a general contractor whose expertise is new construction and remodeling.



In December, our main speaker was Wane Baker. Wane is an consulting engineer with Michaels Engineering. Wane's main focus was on brick-built construction. He presented some pictures showing major flaws on projects he was involved with. He also talked about the importance of proper flashing and adequate air space with weep holes on brick building. We followed up with some questions and answers as well as home inspection issues from some of our members. We had another great turnout, with 15 members present.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 11th at Jade Garden Restaurant, 3620 Gateway Dr., Eau Claire. **NOTE TIME CHANGE:** The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m., usually followed by a Q&A period. The cost of the meeting is \$20, which includes a buffet supper (tip extra). Our speaker will be Larry Umlauft. Larry is with Northern Aire Chimney Service out of the Eau Claire area. Larry will talk about specific flue liners, especially on older homes. We ask our members to bring along photos of some unusual chimney installations they have experienced so Larry can comment as to how to report on such applications.

NOTE: Our Christmas gathering this year will be on Friday, January 20th and will be held at the Fanny Hill, located at 3919 Crescent Ave., Eau Claire. Social hour will start about 6:30 p.m. and we have scheduled dinner at 7:30 p.m. If you have not signed up, please contact Pete Saltness at 715-829-7348 or pklsaltness@charter.net.



Our December speaker was Joe Nagen from Focus on Energy.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 17th at Beefeaters British Grille & Ale House, 2331 E. Evergreen Dr., Appleton. Cocktails and roundtable discussion start at 6 p.m., 6:45 dinner, 7:15 speaker, meeting to follow. For speaker information, visit the WAHI website or contact Education Chair Paul Birschbach at 920-849-9274 or binspector@frontier.com.

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Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 19th. Roundtable will begin at 6 p.m., dinner/meeting at 6:30 p.m. and speaker at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at Rex's Inkeeper, 301 N. Century Ave., Waunakee. Our speaker will be Ed Vacha of Radon Solutions. He will bring a mock up of a system and explain how we should inspect and report on these systems.



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th at Klemmer's Banquet Center, 104th & Oklahoma Ave. in West Allis. Social at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25, which includes dinner and the continuing education. The speaker will be longtime affiliate member Kurt Soens of Smoke Stacks Inc. Kurt will address safety concerns.

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Tips and Tidbits

WAHI State Election

It's nearing that time of year again. Please consider serving in a position of leadership in the coming year, either at the chapter or state level. Members will elect the state President (one-year term), Vice President (two-year term) and two Members at Large (two-year terms) in March. The 2012 slate of state officers will be announced at the Annual Meeting in Baraboo on March 31st. In addition, several chapters will be holding election in the spring.

Watch your February newsletter for important dates regarding the nomination of candidates and the election. This election will be held electronically, as was done in spring of 2011. Look for more details in February.

Continuing Ed Credit Count and Membership Renewal

Watch your mail in January for your continuing education credit count for monthly meeting

attendance at WAHI chapter meetings. Additionally, WAHI will again offer home inspector members a 5% discount if they renew their membership by March 1st. Renewal information will be included with the credit count mailing. The actual renewal date is July 1st. Early renewal at the reduced rate is optional.

Board of Directors Meeting

The next WAHI Board of Directors meeting will be held online on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 starting at 6:30 p.m. All WAHI members are welcome to participate. Contact Julie Arnstein if you are interested. She can be reached at juliewahi@wi.rr.com or (877) 399-WAHI.

WRA Winter Convention January 25-27, 2012

Our Public Relations Committee Chair Bob Turicik is again coordinating a booth at the

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Tips and Tidbits

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Wisconsin Realtors Association's upcoming event in Lac du Flambeau. Contact Bob at (920) 892-7654 or homereview@wi.rr.com if you are interested in helping staff the booth.

WAHI Spring 2012 Training Seminar

Mark your calendars for our Spring 2012 event on Friday, March 30th and Saturday, March 31st at the Ho-Chunk Casino and Conference Center in Baraboo. We will again offer training at an Education House on Friday and classroom training on Saturday. Dave Ross, Secretary of the Department of Safety and Professional Services (replaced the Department of Regulation and Licensing), will share information and answer questions pertaining to recent changes in Madison. Further details will be coming soon. Hope to see you there!

Ride Along Program

In October of 2010, the Milwaukee chapter discussed starting a Ride Along Program, intended to assist new members as they embark on their business. Experienced members would allow a less-experienced member to accompany them on a home inspection. The idea was presented to the Board of Directors at the November board meeting and the program was approved. WAHI members interested in sharing their knowledge and experience with a fellow member are asked to contact Julie Arnstein. Julie will add their name to a list given to a member looking for guidance of this type. Contact Julie at (414) 299-9766 or (877) 399-WAHI or juliewahi@wi.rr.com.

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17425 Gebhardt Rd.
Brookfield, WI 53045
Office: (262) 797-8181
Cell: (414) 588-5800
www.smokestacks.net



Heat Shield Cerfractory Flue Resurfacing System

I while back I told you about a new resurfacing system that allows chimney professionals to coat over the existing masonry flue tiles to make a new liner inside of the old liner. This product is called Heat Shield Cerfractory Flue Sealant. It was invented by a scientist who has created many products for the chimney field, and his products are incredible. I have used this product in flues where I felt it was the most cost-effective.

The east side of Milwaukee has beautiful homes, but most of these flues are mortar-encased, which means if you have to bust out the flue tiles, it is going to be very costly. These east side homes are good candidates for this system. Additionally, this system can be used to recoat an entire flue lining, or just do individual failing mortar joints between the tiles. It is very versatile.

If you are inspecting a house and the flue you are evaluating has been recoated, the flue is going to have irregularities to it (it may have dimples or striations). It is not going to be a smooth wall going all the way up the flue. Don't be alarmed by the imperfections. As long as there are no voids where the product is applied, it is considered a finished product.

Tips and Tidbits

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2011 Membership Roster

The updated 2011 WAHI Membership Roster has been posted on www.wahigroup.com. You will find it in the drop down menu of the Members tab on the home page.

Office Max Discount

The Office Max corporate discount is available to all members of WAHI. Purchases can be made online at www.OfficeMaxSolutions.com. The user name is wahi and the password is member1. In-store purchases require use of a WAHI Retail Connect Card. Print yours from page 11 in this newsletter. Office Max will laminate it for you on your first visit. See pages 9-10 of this newsletter for further information and happy shopping, happy savings.

Updating Your Contact Info

Please visit www.wahigroup.com and find your listing under the members tab on the home page. If you have recently moved or if your information is not correct/complete, please contact Julie at info@wahigroup.com, (877) 399-WAHI or fax at (262) 785- 6765. Updates are listed every month in the WAHI Inspector.

Member News

Share your Member News – joys, recognitions achieved, temporary setbacks (be they illness or injury), etc. Privacy should be recognized, and information provided must be okayed by the person involved. Send submissions to Julie at juliewahi@wi.rr.com. Deadline for inclusion is the 20th of the month before the newsletter (ie. March 20th for the April issue).

WAHI Legal Support (WLS)

Attorney Roy Wagner, of von Briesen and Roper, continues offer risk-free initial counseling to members with legal concerns. If further legal assistance is requested, the cost of the initial consultation will be included in the bill.

Call (414) 276-1122. Note: The WLS program is completely independent of the WAHI Arbitration System.

Chapter Secretaries

Chapter Secretaries are reminded to include upcoming speaker and topic information when submitting monthly meeting minutes to Julie Arnstein. The information will be included in the newsletter and will also be posted on our Web site at www.wahigroup.com.

Chapter Presidents

Please give your WAHI Board Member-at-Large an opportunity to share information from recent Board meetings. They are the liaison between your chapter and the WAHI Board.

Communication

All member-to-member or member-to-association disputes must go through the Membership Committee. A member going public with a member or association dispute will be grounds for disciplinary action. The Membership Committee will implement this policy. Members are to contact new Membership Committee Chair Rob Fischer at (414) 476-6879 or inspectbyinsight@yahoo.com.

WAHI Arbitration Program

All members are encouraged to make every effort to resolve homeowner/inspector disputes without outside help. When that is not successful, know that the WAHI Dispute Resolution Program is there for you. The process begins when the complainant (homeowner) contacts Resolute Systems, the program administrator, via mail at 1550 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee 53202, e-mail at info@ResoluteSystems.com or their Web site at www.resolutesystems.com.

For more information contact Arbitration Committee Chair Tom Feiza at (262) 303-4884 or tom@misterfix-it.com.

Member Updates

New Home Inspector Members

Brad Carney

4315 County Road S

Oshkosh, 54904

Ph (920) 851-2522

bcarney@new.rr.com

Fox Valley Associate (Student) Member

David Stoinski

Best Informed Home Inspections LLC

5958 Harbour South Drive

Winneconne 54986

Ph (920) 810-4145

frontierrd@hotmail.com

Fox Valley Home Inspector Member

The WAHI Inspector is the official publication of the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors. Published monthly, deadlines are the 20th of the month before publication (ie. May 20th for the June issue).

Wisconsin Association
of Home Inspectors, Inc.
c/o 4590 S. Raven Lane
New Berlin, WI 53151

414-299-9766 (Milwaukee)

877-399-9244 (Toll-free)

262-785-6765 (Fax)

www.wahigroup.com

Executive Director: Julie Arnstein
juliewahi@wi.rr.com

[YOUR INFORMATION HERE]

Quick Tip #3 - Plugged Drain? Here's a Quick Fix

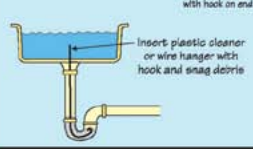
Trap Plugged - Clean with Wire or Tool

Tools to clean trap:



Flexible plastic strip with "hooks"

Wire coat hanger with hook on end



Insert plastic cleaner or wire hanger with hook and snag debris

Yuck... your tub or bathroom sink is draining slowly AGAIN. Every time you remove the trap or use a plumbing snake, you know you'll be dealing with a major mess. And the hair in the trap is disgusting! But you're tired of standing in water when taking a shower.

Well, next time you're at the grocery or hardware store, pick up a drain cleaner: a flexible plastic strip with small hooks along its length; it looks like a very thin Christmas tree.

Without dismantling anything, you push this thin plastic tool down the drain and pull out all that hair and junk. For some drains, it helps if you remove the stopper for better access.

Just be ready for a mess when you pull it out. Have a rag or paper towel ready to catch the junk. You should also wear rubber gloves.

After the junk is removed, run very hot water down the drain for several minutes.

If you don't have time to go to the grocery store, you could also try this with a length of thin wire bent to form a hook on one end. This tool is not as effective, and it will take more effort to catch the hair and the junk - but it can work.

By Tom Feiza, Mr. Fix-It

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