

Employee Spotlight

Tirusew Asefa, Principal Water Resources Systems Engineer

Tirusew Asefa has been dedicated to his engineering work at Tampa Bay Water for nearly a decade now, with his career beginning here in 2004. As Tampa Bay Water's Water Resources Systems Engineer, Tirusew has a position that consists of three time scale components: (1) operational forecast; (2) seasonal to annual scales; and (3) long-term modeling and analysis.

Asefa holds a bachelor's degree in Irrigation Engineering from Arbaminch University in Ethiopia; a master's degree in Hydrology from Free University of Brussels in Belgium; and a doctoral degree in Water Resources Engineering from Utah State University.

Asefa is also incredibly active in his professional community, as he holds membership in all of the following organizations: American Geophysical Union, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Works Association and International Association of Hydrological Science.

Together with Dr. Adams he represents Tampa Bay Water in Water Utilities Climate Alliance (WUCA), Piloting Utilities Modeling Applications (PUMA), and Florida Water and Climate Alliance (FloridaWCA) all of which are concerned with understanding the impacts of Climate Change on the ability of water supply utilities to provide reliable water in the future. He currently leads the committee for research needs and assessment of FloridaWCA.

What he most enjoys about his job at Tampa Bay Water is being able to perform interesting, challenging work that calls for cutting edge applied technology. He appreciates the team that he works with and their ability to be critical of one another, while working together efficiently and successfully.

"I like doing very interesting and challenging work, having great colleagues, working environment, and forward looking boss cannot be overstated," said Tirusew. "I enjoy the fact that we collect lots of data that enable us perform our job. Without data we won't be able to do what we do effectively," he added.

In his spare time, you will find Asefa playing ground and/or table tennis, playing guitar or teaching his son to play soccer. Tirusew used to play competitive soccer and remains a big fan of the sport.

Asefa represents and demonstrates what positive results can be gained from hard work, even when presented with potential obstacles: although his original career plans were to become a medical doctor, being an Ethiopian native, the former government (a dictatorship) assigned students to specialties that had a perceived labor shortage, and as a result, Asefa was assigned to be an engineer.

"But knowing what I know now, I'm glad that I end up being an Engineer as I don't even like to go to hospital let alone working there fulltime."

General Manager Update (New release)

Tampa Bay Water's Chairman and General Counsel have successfully completed contract negotiations with Matthew W. Jordan, P.E., and he has accepted the position as Tampa Bay Water's

new general manager. The contract will go before the Board of Directors for consideration at its June 17 regular board meeting. Pending board approval, Mr. Jordan will start work on July 8, 2013.

Mr. Jordan currently serves as Chief Executive Officer at the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, in North Carolina. He also worked as the Director of Public Works for the City of Gastonia, North Carolina.

2013 Health Fair: Pathways to Prevention

The Health Fair was a big success this year, focusing on wellness and prevention. The two most popular stops were the juicing station, ably manned by our own Doug “The Juicemaster” Addison and the stress-relief chair massage station. While Doug’s smoothies may not have looked all that enticing, they packed a wallop both in flavor and vitamin content and he definitely won over a few converts.

The chair massage therapists were kept busy and we already have requests to have them come back next year.

Don’t forget, your memory stick pens are loaded with documents and links regarding prevention and wellness, so take a look at that information when you have a chance.

The following lucky folks won prizes at the health fair:

- Clearwater- Vitamix-Sarah Swann
- CYC- Vitamix-Debra Woodall
- \$100 gift card-Kim Jaquez
- \$100 gift card-Evelyn Dooley
- Wellness gift basket-Julie Murphy
- Yoga gift certificate-Cindy O'Donnell
- Umbrellas-Simon DeWitt, Nicole Thomas & Heather Coleman

Human Resources would like to thank everyone who helped with this year’s event, especially, Simon DeWitt, Lisa Decker, Brandon Moore, Doug Addison, Evelyn Dooley (whose casseroles were a BIG hit) and Charlotte Moore. And a big “Thank You” to all of you who came out to make it such a success. See you next year!

Safety Tips



SAFETY UNDER THE FLORIDA SUN – Tips for Preventing Heat-Related Illness:

- Drink plenty of fluids that don't contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar. Limit sodas because of the added sugar and caffeine. Sweat is 99 percent water, so when you exercise or play, you lose water. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink fluids and always make sure your water is clean. Add slices of fruit to water or drink 100 percent juice if you do not like the taste of water.
- Limit outside activity to morning and evening hours. Be cautious and stay out of the sun when exercising between 10:00 a.m. and 4 p.m. Children, seniors and persons with health problems should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.
- Rest often in shady areas, or remain inside in an air conditioned space.
- Dress for summer by wearing lightweight, light-colored and loose fitting clothing to reflect heat and sun. Wear wide-brimmed hats to shade the sun.
- Protect your eyes and skin by wearing sunglasses and sunscreen. Use sunscreens with SPF 15 or higher that protect against both UVA and UVB rays. Sunburn reduces your body's ability to dissipate heat. Sunscreen should be applied every 2 to 4 hours, liberally enough to all sun-exposed areas that it forms a film when initially applied.
- Do not leave children or pets in an unattended vehicle because the temperature can reach 135 degrees in less than ten minutes.

New Employees

Bradley Updyke –

Bradley joined Tampa Bay Water with the intention of expanding his knowledge of electrical engineering. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's in Electrical Engineering at the University of South Florida, and looks forward to gaining invaluable engineering experience while working for Luis.

Leigh Jester –

Leigh is a student at the University of Florida, currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering. Leigh chose to pursue an internship with Tampa Bay Water after hearing about the agency and wanting to learn about their water treatment operations.

Sarah Avery –

Sarah is a full-time student at the University of South Florida, pursuing her bachelor's in Public Relations. She chose to work as a coop with Tampa Bay Water, because she hopes to gain more hands-on experience her desired field, while expanding her knowledge of employee and media relations.

Daniel Giambrone -

Twin Lakes Elementary Tours Regional Wellfield

Twin Lakes Elementary School was one of our source water protection mini grant recipients this year. The school was awarded \$5,000 to go towards education/lesson plans and a school project.

A part of the grant goes to the development of lesson plans, which includes a field trip to a local wellfield, one of our drinking water sources. The idea behind the fieldtrip was to introduce students to nature, and to make a connection between the water that comes out of the tap, and the natural environment where the water comes from. The kids could see how the source of our drinking water is being used not only by humans, but by many animals, birds and fish.

They took water samples as well as some species of macro-vertebrates found in Section 21 wellfield.

They also had an opportunity to peek inside one of the production wells and see the pumps and electrical components that are needed to pump the water from the ground.

Regional Reservoir Update

Construction on the Reservoir is about 10 percent complete. For weekly updates on the project, follow us on Twitter, like our Facebook page or check the project website at <http://www.tampabaywater.org/reservoir/>

Calendar

JUNE

16 Father's Day

17 Board Meeting

JULY

4 Independence Day; Offices Closed

Employee Anniversaries (Intranet)

Dave Bracciano, 30 years

Bruce Miller, 27 years

Nicole Thomas, 17 years

Regina Kavanagh, 16 years

Steve Kroesen, 9 years

Vern Rosich, 8 years

William Currie, 7 years

Michelle Rapp, 7 years

Kenneth Nothstein, 5 years

Lorraine Palazzolo, 4 years

Stephen Spivey, 4 years

Brandon Moore, 3 years

Lucie Jouret, 3 years

Raymond Brigham, 2 years

Douglas Pary, 2 years

John Braxton, 1 year