

## AFO

The Fall/Winter schedule is available at CESWaterQuality.com or call (800) 940-1557, prompt #5, for more information. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that we have added an extra class scheduled for January 30-31 at FIU's North Miami campus.

## Holiday Schedule

Improvements for 2003! CES will be implementing a new Business system starting 12/26/02. We will also be launching our New Catalog on January 2, 2003.

To prepare for these exciting changes, conduct year-end inventory, and for observance of the holiday season, our offices will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd for all orders including chemicals. Technical Support will be available on December 30 & 31st. All offices will be fully staffed and ready for action on January 2nd. If you have an emergency, please call and the automated attendant will route you to the best source. We will make every effort to assist you in any way possible.

## ADA Guidelines for Pool Lifts

Recently there have been many calls concerning the requirement for handicap lifts on commercial pools. Here is some more information to try to clear up any misconceptions: On September 3, 2002, the Access Board, the independent federal agency tasked with developing ADA requirements, released the final guidelines for recreation facilities. Pool lifts feature prominently as a preferred method of providing safe access to aquatic facilities. The Access Board also made very specific provisions governing their use such as that the lift be capable of unassisted operation. That means that pool operators who purchased hand-cranked lifts in the past, will no longer be in compliance with the new requirements. Also, lifts must be capable of lifting 300 lbs. Many lifts are water operated, and some county health departments now require that the water connections be hard-plumbed underneath the pool deck to the lift site, and that the discharge water from the lifts be hard plumbed to waste (and not into the convenient pool gutter location).

Besides water-powered lifts, there are

several other ways to comply with the ADA requirements such as: electric pool lifts, permanent ramps, and portable ramps with non-metallic wheelchairs. The electric pool lifts, a CES favorite, uses low voltage (24 volt) screw-drive, portable design, and has waterproof controls that allow the patrons to operate the lift, and smoothly transfer themselves from wheelchair to pool/spa and back.

There is also confusion as to which facilities must comply with the ADA codes along with discussions regarding what constitutes a public facility, versus a private facility. As a general rule of thumb, if your facility has had to conform to ADA guidelines for parking access and restrooms, then more than likely you will need to conform to the new aquatic guidelines as well.

For more information regarding pool lifts, ramps, etc., please check the CES web site under: >>Product Information>>Handicap Access.

## Heating Out Of Control?

After a few relatively mild winters, this winter is proving to be a bit more severe. We are receiving many calls from organizations that are tired of spending so much money heating their pools. We have been asked to highlight some of the potential changes that could be made to cut heating costs without sacrificing bather comfort. Here goes:

Learn about your pool: There are many potential problems with your existing heating program that will decrease efficiencies and increase heating costs. CES is proud to have several different ways to help you learn more about your different savings options. The FSEC IN-81 report accurately highlights the heating costs for your pool under 3 different temperature settings (78, 80, 82°F) and under 8 different site conditions including: screened, windbreak, exposed, covered, etc. This report will provide good budget numbers for heating your pool, and will pinpoint savings opportunities. For more information or a FSEC heating analysis, please contact your CES rep or contact CES customer service.

The Department of Energy RSPEC (Reduce Swimming Pool Energy Costs) program is another great learning tool in the battle against excessive heating costs. This popular software-based savings

program allows for infinite adjustment of heating variables such as temperature, influence of wind, hours of operation, heater efficiencies, effects of pool covers, and much more. While this program can be downloaded on the Web (call us for the web address), CES can provide the finished report and assist you in inputting the proper variables, interpreting the results, and evaluating the alternatives. To get the RSPEC program report based specifically on YOUR pool, please go to the CES web site under: >>Technical Support/Service>>Helpful Hints-Troubleshooting>>Energy Audits. Please fill out the energy audit report request that contains some basic information about your pool, and send it in to CES for report processing.

Know your heating weapons: There are many time-tested weapons you can use in the war on high heating costs. Here are just a few: 1) Moderate your temperatures: It is true that holding higher temperature will create a considerable increase in energy costs. How much more? A good rule of thumb is that every degree F in pool temperature costs 10% more a year in heating costs regardless of the heater type. So keeping a pool at 85°F will cost 50% more than keeping it at 80°F. 2) Efficiency counts: The old rusted atmospheric gas heater may cost too much to replace? Think again, maybe replacement is the cheapest way out. New-style gas heating systems use advance features like sealed combustion chambers, indexed gas valves, computerized air and fuel injection, direct ignition, and copper fin technology to raise operating efficiencies to 88-89%. In many cases it may be cheaper to change out the old heater and enjoy a 25-30% fuel savings than to put off the inevitable replacement and live with higher heating costs. 3) Keep the heat in: Well proven over the last 20 years, the MacBall insulated pool cover system can cut evaporation and heating costs by over 60%. It can reduce nighttime losses to 1-2°F even in the coldest weather, as opposed to 8-10°F losses experienced in uncovered pools.

A comfortable pool temperature will make for happy patrons, but controlled heating costs will keep the bosses happy, while contributing to the long-term health and well-being of your organization. Call CES for assistance with your pool and spa heating program, and win the battle against excessive heating costs!