

**IOWWA Members Continue Work at Habitat Site**  
*By Doug Bird, Bremer County Public Health Officer*

IOWWA has taken onsite wastewater treatment to two more homes at the Habitat for Humanity site located nearby Waverly, Iowa.

In 2003, IOWWA began work to support a Habitat for Humanity project called Heartland Hills that involved the rehabilitation of 21 homes whose wastewater needs were originally served by a lagoon. These homes, on an abandoned cold war military base, sat empty for several years. Continued service to the lagoon was no longer possible and Habitat for Humanity needed a new wastewater treatment system for the homes.

IOWWA board members recognized that on-site wastewater treatment technology and equipment met this project's needs. In addition to being a worthy service for our organization to provide, IOWWA involvement at the site could also be used as a training aid for industry professionals. After almost two years of coordination, planning and design work, the onsite system for the first four homes was installed through workshops held in April 2005.

In the workshop held on June 9, 2006, the systems installed were Advantex and Ecoflo wastewater treatment units. The Advantex system is a multi-pass packed bed aerobic wastewater treatment system designed for processing of residential strength wastewater. The Ecofilter treats the wastewater from the septic tank by directing it into the biofilters' concrete shell, where it is evenly distributed over the surface of the filtering media using a mechanism without electro-mechanical parts. Both systems then drain to a surface discharge line. As more of the homes are completed, the discharge will be routed to a pump tank that will then discharge to a drip dispersal field.

Without the generous donations of material, equipment and time, this project would not have been possible. We thank the following sponsors for their outstanding support of the association and the June Habitat effort:

**Fairfield Precast**

Mike Searcy, Fairfield, IA

*Contribution: 2000 gallon septic tank and concrete tank for peat system*

**Zeigler Cat**

Josh Wedemier, Altoona, IA

*Contribution: excavation equipment*

**Premier Tech Environment**

Michael Lemieus, Quebec, Canada

*Contribution: Ecoflo components*

**River to River Onsite Septic Solutions**

Bob McKinney, Waukee, IA

*Contribution: installation*

**Bremer County Building, Zoning & Sanitation**

Doug Bird, Waverly, IA

*Contribution: pipe*

**Volrath Sales Group**

Justin Volrath, Des Moines, IA

*Contribution: 1/2 of Advantex Treatment System package*

**Deike Excavating**

Kenn Deike, Plainfield, IA

*Contribution: equipment operator*

**Wieser Precast**

Greg Verthein, Sterwartville, MN

*Contribution: 200 gallon septic tank*

**Cedar Rapids WinPump**

Terry Whitney, Cedar Rapids, IA

*Contribution: pipe fittings and direct burial wire*

**Orenco Systems**

Darren Simmie

*Contribution: 1/2 of Advantex Treatment System package*

**Wikner Trucking LLC**

Joel Wikner, Denver, IA

*Contribution: operating equipment*

**Toby's Dirt Work**

Toby Pencil, Denver, IA

*Contribution: labor and skid loader*

Another round of installations, set for September 15 workshop, will bring the total number of homes with new wastewater treatment systems at Heartland Hills to eight. If you would like to help supply equipment or materials — or volunteer labor — for the Habitat homes, please contact Doug Bird at 319-352-0332.