



Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter

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President's Message

It's *deja vu* all over again! Here I am back in the President's chair, one more time, following in the redoubtable footsteps of the first two-time WGWA President, and one of my favorite people on the planet, Margy Blanchard. Next year, for the first time in four years, Margy and I are pleased the President will not be named Margy or Boyd, but rather, Dave. Dave Nemetz, that is, the current President-Elect who will ascend to the WGWA hot seat next in 2005.

Your current Board of Directors--Dave, Marilyn Weiss - Treasurer, Janis Kesy - Secretary, myself, and Directors-at-Large Becky Caudill, Brian Hahn, and Tom Riewe--have a busy year planned for you.

We have our annual conference coming up in April, companioned with the second Where the Waters Meet conference, on consecutive days.

\$ A week later we are the main sponsor of the second annual Groundwater Festival, to be held this year in Waukesha, at which more than 600 fifth graders to learn about the mysteries of groundwater resources.

\$ This fall we will conduct another field trip, tentatively to focus on karst areas in the beautiful Driftless Area that is southwestern Wisconsin. We also hope to be able to team, in this effort, with our colleagues in the Minnesota Ground Water Association, to make it a two day rip on both sides of the Mississippi.

\$ Our efforts as an official Affiliate of the national Groundwater Guardians organization continue apace.

\$ We continue to work establishing liaison relationships with students and professors at Wisconsin's many universities and colleges that teach groundwater science and resource management.

\$ WGWA Area meetings are ongoing in Milwaukee, Madison, and Wausau. Watch your e-mail for meeting announcement.

\$ On the political front, we are monitoring the considerable activity in the state legislature aimed at developing new groundwater quantity legislation.

- And, of course, you can count on receiving regular issues of our excellent quarterly newsletter, courtesy of our contributors, and our newsletter team of Lee Trotta, Troy Thompson, and Joan Viney.

So, it ought to be a good year! Of course, there is one minor problem--it is difficult for one small group to do all of this alone! We need volunteers! If any of the above action items pique your interest, please get in touch with me, or one of the other WGWA officers. You can find contact information for all of us elsewhere in this newsletter, or on the "Officers" page of the WGWA web site. *So get involved....it's fun!*

Boyd Possin, P.G., President

The newsletter is published four times per year. If you have any suggestions or submissions, please contact us at: Wisconsin Ground Water Association, c/o Marilyn Weiss, WGWA Treasurer, P.O. Box 8593, Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8593. Email: wgwainfo@wgwa.org; Web site: <http://www.wgwa.org>. The deadline for submissions to the second quarter newsletter is March 12, 2004.

Calendar of Events

What: Making Fun of Water: Lakes Workshop for Southeastern Wisconsin

When: January 31

Where: Waukesha County Technical College - Richard T. Anderson Education Center, Pewaukee

Contact: Wisconsin Association of Lakes for more information to register www.wisconsinlakes.org

What: WGWA Southern Area Breakfast Meeting; Open Discussion

When: Thursday, February 5, 2003; 7:00 AM - 8:15 AM

Where: Sunprint Cafe, Odana Road and Whitney Way, Madison

Cost: Free (Breakfast cost is on you)

Contact: John Tweddale, BT^2, Inc.; phone 608-224-2830; fax 608-224-2839; email jtewddale@bt2inc.com

What: DNR Urban Grant Implementation and Writing Workshops, co-sponsored by Rock River Coalition Storm Water Issue Team

When: February 11

9:00-11:15 - Grant Implementation Workshop (for 2004 grantees)

1:00-4:00 - Grant Writing Workshops

Where:

Dane County Fen Oak Resource Center (LCD and UWEX office)

One Fen Oak Court, Madison

Contact: Register for either or both of the workshops kathleen.thompson@dnr.state.wi.us or by calling 608-267-7568

What: AWWA Water Quality Technology Conference & Expo

When: November 14-18, 2004

Where: San Antonio, TX

CALL FOR PAPERS - Deadline February 23, 2004 for AWWA Water Quality Technology Conference. Abstract topics on all aspects of water quality and technology such as monitoring and detection techniques, treatment processes, disinfection by-products, coagulation and filtration, organic and inorganic contaminants, distribution system water quality, and emerging issues.

Contact: www.awwa.org

What: "Where the Waters Meet," the 2004 joint meeting of the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, the Wisconsin Ground Water Association, and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. The meeting is currently in the initial; planning stages, but the theme seems to be crystallizing around how the individual can get him or herself empowered to effect change in the water resources arena.

When: Thursday, April 14, 2004

Where: KI Convention Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Cost: (to be determined)

Contact: Boyd Possin at boydpossin@wgwa.org

What: Information Management Technology Conference & Expo

When: April 18-21, 2004

Where: Baltimore, MD

Cost: (to be determined)

Contact: check AWWA website www.awwa.org/AWWA 800-926-7337

TRAVELING FOR GROUND WATER

On October 9, 2003, I had the chance to interview one of the participants in last year's Groundwater Festival. Becky Rosenberg is a teacher at Lincoln Elementary School on Sequoia Trail in Madison. Her 5th-grade class and a 4th/5th-grade mixed class took the long bus ride up to Stevens Point for the Festival. Though the cost of the Festival is free, the cost of the bus ride itself had to be shared between the organizers and the school.



Lincoln is an urban school meeting a number of challenges. The enrollment has a high % of economically disadvantaged children. English is a second language for a high % of the kids. Through the creativity of teachers like Becky, Lincoln is meeting these challenges. They learn math with games and templates. Room 30 has even created a website displaying examples of these games and pictures of each student (see http://labweb.education.wisc.edu/pk16/les_math_30/) Her class does a yearlong wetland study, it is important for them to understand ground water.

When the bus arrived at the Festival site, the children got a chance to get up close and personal with the water they'd been studying. It rained off and on that day, but many of the presentations were held in dry tents. "The presenters were excellent and the activities worthwhile", said Becky. Jenny Lane (PhD) and her grad students handled some of the best presentations, many of which were energy-related. Lincoln School serves many special education students for whom interactive learning is important. When attention spans are short kinesthetic lessons are recommended. The activity stations at the Festival served this purpose well.

Included in the day's festivities was a packet of goodies and information for each child. Everyone seemed to like the water drop beanie babies. The Silver Threads Sewing Group of Portage County (a Retired Senior Volunteer Program) lovingly made 600 of those cute little water drops. The information in the packets was helpful in allowing students to talk with their parents later about the fun they had.

Who is Becky Rosenberg? Why did she recognize the value of taking an extended field trip to the Groundwater Festival? Last year Becky traveled to Japan for a conference on environmental education projects related to water. Some of the Groundwater Festival ideas were shared with the Japanese! This travel for teachers is meant to gain insights into new and better teaching techniques and is sponsored in part by Fulbright scholarships (for details, see website www.cies.org).

This April, Madison schools won't have to travel so far for the groundwater experience. The 2004 Groundwater Festival will be held April 23rd in the Arena at the Waukesha Exposition Center in Waukesha. All Wisconsin elementary schools received an invitation. Many of the local schools will want to take advantage to celebrate "sparkling waters – the underground connection". This year's entertainer will be folksinger Ann Rowland. Donations to the State Groundwater Festival Fund should be made out to "Carroll College" at 100 North East Avenue, Waukesha, one of the Festival sponsors. Watch for further announcements.

By Lee Trotta, Festival 2004 Coordinator



The children loved the entertainment! Tom Pease sang water-related songs while playing guitar and interacting freely with the audience.

"AA'LL BE BAACK!"

Just when we thought he was done, Arnold keeps coming back like a bad penny. Also returning for an encore is the Wisconsin Groundwater Festival. The 2nd Annual Festival "Sparkling Waters - The Underground Connection" will be held April 23rd at the Waukesha County Exposition Center. Schools from around the State were invited to attend. Already over five hundred 5th and 6th graders have registered from schools up to 270 miles away. Their day learning interactive lessons on groundwater and being entertained by folksinger Ann Rowland will be full of fun and memories.

Just like Arnold's campaign, an event like this needs support and contributions. Tax-deductible contributions get recognition in the following categories:

\$1000 & up- Event Sponsor (You receive a listing on the advertisement poster, a banner with sponsor name and logo, and a listing in the program.)

\$550- Entertainment Sponsor (You receive a banner with sponsor name and logo on the stage, and a listing in the program.)

\$250- Pod Sponsor (You receive a banner with sponsor name and logo at an activity pod, and a listing in the program.)

\$100- Class Sponsor (You receive a listing in the program in medium-sized font.)

\$50- General Sponsor (You receive a listing in the program in smaller font.)

Make checks payable to Carroll College while writing "WI Groundwater Festival" in the memo portion. Send them to Carroll College – Environmental Sciences, WI Groundwater Festival, 100 North East Avenue, Waukesha, WI 53186.

Now, to quote another California actor/politician, "Make my day!"

Lee Trotta, Festival Coordinator

Summary of the Groundwater Guardian Committee Meetings On November 20, 2003 and January 22, 2004

Summary of November 20, 2003, Groundwater Guardian Meeting ([for full minutes, click here](#))

Meeting participants were Lee Trotta, Marilyn John, Denise Kilkenny-Tittle, and Mary Adelmeyer. The Festival site was switched from the Forum to the Arena at the Waukesha County Expo Center. Progress on entertainment and fund handling was discussed. Mary Adelmeyer volunteered to be the publicity chairperson. Various ideas for a 4th activity track were discussed.

Summary of January 22, 2004, Groundwater Guardian Meeting ([for full minutes, click here](#))

Meeting participants were Lee Trotta, Boyd Possin, Rebecca Caudill, and Denise Kilkenny-Tittle. Lee reported that the Milladore Area Groundwater Guardian Group was successful in their attempt to fund well abandonment in their area. Details will be presented at the "Where the Waters Meet" conference. Festival progress shows \$2150 in donations and only \$40 in expenses so far. Festival needs include solicitation and training of volunteers for the event, replenishment of consumable supplies, and finalization of schools to receive invitations to attend. A tentative list of 17 schools was given. Immediately forthcoming tasks are that Rebecca will assess available Teacher Resource literature and provide photocopying, Boyd will telephone the list of last year's Festival volunteers and solicit other WGWA professionals, and Lee will finalize the Rotation Schedule, call schools for attendance confirmation, send acceptance letters, finalize the 4th lesson track, map the lesson areas, and send out school packets. Next meeting is February 18th.

Minutes of Groundwater Guardian Festival Planning

The November 9th meeting took place in stages. First Lee Trotta (262-641-9341), Boyd Possin (920-606-0323), and Marilyn John (262-675-6725) met via teleconference. Then Denise Kilkenny-Tittle (715-341-6547) visited Marilyn at her West Bend home. Finally Denise visited Lee at his Brookfield home.

Boyd expressed interest in helping provide professional hydrologists and consultants for each of the activity stations to help with groundwater questions that come up during lessons (usually run by high school volunteers). Assuming about 20 will be needed, he thinks we can provide that many from our WGWA membership. The time and location of the Festival have been set for April 23rd (from 9am to 3:30pm) at the Waukesha County Expo in and around the Forum building. Most of WGWA's \$2000 donation to the Festival will go towards the Expo rental fee. We hope to raise another \$5000 for other expenses.

Boyd asked Marilyn about her background. Marilyn is a member of "taxpayers against airport noise" and also the Freshwater Forum. She leads a group of educators called the West Bend Watershed Watchers in protecting the Milwaukee River watershed. She knows Milwaukee-area water professionals like Steve Books (Great Lakes Schooner Association) and Becky Able (who will talk about wetlands on November 14 at 7pm at the Washington County extension). The others in her Watershed Watchers group include Marianne Ines, a "Wellspring" organic gardener, and Karen Skuldt, Phd. Lee asked where Marilyn thought her group could best fit into the Festival planning. He outlined various **sub-committee tasks** that needed filling such as **fundraising, publicity, and entertainment**. Marilyn emphasized that her group consisted of educators and would prefer to take on teaching one of the activity tracks. We explained last years activities to Marilyn: Track 1 was display and use of groundwater sand model kits to show aquifer structure and contaminant transport. Track 2 was groundwater/surfacewater relationships shown with mock envirosapes (perhaps the best fit with Marilyn's background). Track 3 was an energy-related track that must be replaced this year. Track 4 "pucker effect" provided pollution solutions.

Marilyn suggested her group do the replacement for Track 3 emphasizing water quality as it affects people. She mentioned the availability of some folks who could demonstrate water testing. Boyd leaned heavily towards replacing Track 3 with an activity oriented towards water supply withdrawal (given the Festival location in Waukesha). Lee agreed with Boyd in concept as long as a demonstration could be put together that would interest 5th graders on that subject (i.e., not a PowerPoint presentation). He hoped that the Waukesha Water Utility (having indicated interest) might be able to come up with a good idea for this demonstration.

Marilyn then switched her focus to the crafts break between activities. She suggested that Randy Hentzel (DNR) could have live amphibians and reptiles available for view. I encouraged her to pursue the crafts portion of the program as did Denise when she arrived later. Denise was able to show Marilyn some of the actual activity equipment and tools from last year's Festival which she had brought in her truck.

After leaving Marilyn's house, Denise continued south to Lee's house and left all Festival equipment in his basement. The equipment related to activities should be moved to Carroll College for storage when Joe Piatt has a place picked out. Joe is coordinating volunteers to run the activities and they can better train with the equipment. Denise also went step-by-step through a binder documenting related Festival planning procedures. She may be moving to Seattle with her husband before this year's Festival takes place. Lee is now in command of all resources needed to successfully coordinate the Festival. The only current roadblock is the absence of a pass-through organization to take donations and write expense checks (UW-Stevens Point is out of the picture now). He's still looking for a few volunteers for the aforementioned subcommittee tasks too.

The next meeting is Thursday, November 20th, at 6pm. The same teleconference line gets you in (888-387-8686) to the room number (4345023). As an alternative, you can visit Lee's house for the meeting at 18905 Wilderness Court, Unit D, Brookfield.

CITY'S WATER STANDING FALLS

BY ROD STETZER --THE CHIPPEWA HERALD

It's shocking. Unbelievable. Inconceivable.

Water from Chippewa Falls, the home of Pure Water Days, finished second in a statewide water testing contest held by the Wisconsin Water Association.

It's enough to trigger into action the original waterworks -- tear ducts -- of Chippewa Falls citizens.

The new water capital of Wisconsin is, believe it or not, Rice Lake, a city whose very name speaks of water contamination from foodstuffs.

Thirsty for recognition, the Barron County city of 8,258 water guzzlers has put up a banner boasting of having the best water in the state.

"It's hard to stay on top sometimes," shrugged Dick Hebert, president of the Pure Water Days celebration in Chippewa Falls.

Hebert said one loss does not mean Chippewa Falls, a city that takes pride in the quality of its water, is washed up.

"There's a lot worse than second," he said. "So I'll take second and, hopefully, we can get back on top someday."

Mayor Doug Sandvick thinks the contest results are all wet. So he is issuing a challenge to Rice Lake Mayor Larry Jarvela for a rematch in Chippewa Falls. He wants to set up a blind taste test of each city's water and see which one is the best.

"I'm pretty confident I'll pick my water," he said.

But he's probably not going to get that chance. Jarvela doesn't think much of having a rematch, not when Rice Lake is trying to finalize its budget.

"I'm not going to waste my time doing that," he said. "To me, (a rematch is) not a big deal."

Bill Faherty, the director of Chippewa Falls' Parks and Recreation Department director, put the best spin on the loss in the association contest. He said the best water is not necessarily the purest water.

"We're still the purest water in the world," he said.

Still, there are troubling questions that flow out of the loss to Rice Lake.

For example, Rice Lake's City Hall is located at 30 East Eau Claire St. That may not mean anything to most people, but Eau Claire in French means clear water. Did that make a difference with the judges?

John Allen, the Chippewa Falls manager of public utilities, doesn't think so. And he doesn't think Eau Claire, a sometimes angry neighbor to Chippewa Falls' south, had a hand in the results.

Allen said some people convinced him to enter Chippewa Falls in the contest at the association's meeting in Middleton on Sept. 24. He took elaborate steps to prepare the city's entry.

"I went out to the (city's) pumphouse and turned on the faucet and filled (a gallon jug) up," Allen said.

The jug remained on ice overnight, until Allen took it along with him on the trip to Middleton.

"I turned it over at the registration booth," he said.

From there, the city's pride rested with three judges. Allen said one is an employee of the water association, and the other two work for the University of Wisconsin while also performing as taste testers, a rigorous profession.

They judged the water based on taste, color and turbidity, which some may say clouds the issue of picking a clear winner.

The association then announced Rice Lake was the winner, but strangely didn't say anything about how the seven other cities entered in the contest fared.

"It was widely rumored that we were second," Allen said.

He admits there were no armed guards around the entries, so it's impossible to say who had access to the water. But he rules out any thoughts of sabotage.

"I don't think anybody is that into it," he laughed.

The city can try to regain its pride when the association's meeting convenes in Appleton next year. But Allen is unsure if he'll be able to go.

"I suppose it will depend on (the city's) budget whether I can travel," Allen said.

So if there's no money, the city will be tapped out.

However, Sandvick is promising to personally drive Allen and a jug of city water to the next association contest, even if city finances dry up.

Reach Rod Stetzer at <mailto:rstetzer@chippewa.com> or comrstetzer@chippewa.com.

Rice Lake Tapped As Having "Best Drinking Water In Wisconsin"

Rice Lake is awash in the news it was just chosen as having "The Best Drinking Water in Wisconsin," in a competition conducted by the Wisconsin Water Association (WWA).

At the WWA annual meeting in Madison, the Rice Lake water scored 100 out of a possible 100 points, where water samples are judged on flavor (nine categories including aromatic, chemical, chlorine, grassy, iron, musty, phenolic, sulfide, and swampy); turbidity (having sediment or foreign particles stirred up or suspended); and color.

The test panel included food and beverage taste-testing experts, Dr. Robert Lindsay and Dr. Robert Bradley of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Food Science Department; and Jack Albrechtson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Water Association.



"We're lucky to have such quality drinking water in Wisconsin," says Wally Thom, Water and Wastewater Manager of the Rice Lake Utilities, who provided the samples and accepted the award on behalf of Rice Lake. "We work hard to maintain good quality water -- ours comes from deep groundwater wells -- and it's a team effort," he notes.

"Talk about a liquid asset? We're pleased as punch and steeped in pride with this award," says Al Arnold, former Rice Lake Mayor, who coordinated the Rice Lake Tourism and Retail Development Commission.



"We know what a precious commodity water is in the world, and what this means for Rice Lake's economic and tourism development stature.

A modern city of 8,000, founded in 1864 on the site of a Native American village and wild rice bed, just 100 miles east of the Twin Cities (and 321 miles northwest of Milwaukee), Rice Lake has coupled her natural assets with wise community development to become a regional hub providing outstanding theater, music, arts, education, shopping, year-round recreation -- and now, drinking water!

The year 2003 marked the 18th contest held in conjunction with the WWA Annual Meeting and Water Utility Expo, but is the first time that Rice Lake has entered the competition.

For more information about the Rice Lake Area, contact the Rice Lake Tourism Commission, 37 South Main St., Rice Lake, Wis. 54868; phone: 800-523-6318; FAX: 715-234-2085; e-mail: info@ricelaketourism.com; web: www.ricelaketourism.com.

By Naomi K. Shapiro, Creative Brilliance

Information about this news release, photos, media interviews, etc.: Naomi K. Shapiro, Creative Brilliance Strategic Market Communications, for Rice Lake Tourism Commission Phone: 800-975-5474 (media only); 608-827-6483 FAX: 608-827-6486

“OUT-OF-BOUNDARIES”

What if You Held an Environmental Disaster and Nobody Came?

Imagine a waste spill that was approximately 25 times the volume of the Exxon Valdez spill, that caused more damage than the Valdez spill, that damaged private and public property, that shutdown municipal water supplies for several communities, and that was said to be one of the worst environmental disasters in the history of the Eastern United States by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Now imagine the national media largely ignoring it. It seems incredible but such an event occurred. It is called the Martin County coal slurry spill, and it happened near the town of Inez, Kentucky. You may have heard of it; but if not, you are not alone. I believe that an analysis of some of the possible reasons why this incident did not receive much national coverage raises some interesting questions. Namely what constitutes environmental “news”, and how might this affect the outcome of issues in the environmental and groundwater areas?

In the event you are not familiar with the Martin County coal slurry spill disaster, the spill resulted when an abandoned coal mine collapsed beneath a large coal slurry impoundment. Approximately 306,000 gallons of coal slurry flowed into the mine and approximately 250,000 gallons of that flowed out of two mine portals and into two watersheds. Within a relatively short time period the spill damaged 75 to 100 miles of streams and rivers in Kentucky and West Virginia. Private and public property was damaged, transportation routes were disrupted, and five municipal water intakes had to be shutdown leaving some communities without water supplies. Fortunately, response workers were able to stop the breach before more of the 2.3 billion gallons of slurry originally in the impoundment was released. Also, fortunately, no one was killed, unlike some earlier spills of this type (a 1972 coal slurry spill in West Virginia killed 125 people).

Your first impression may be that the Martin County spill happened too long ago to be remembered by many people. Many people still remember the Exxon Valdez spill in part because it was relatively recent, and it's hard to remember the numerous incidents that have occurred more than twenty years ago.” This incident did happen in the last century – if you consider the year 2000 to be the part of the last century. It happened on

October 11, 2000 to be exact. Undoubtedly it received some national news coverage. But if it had been heavily covered, it seems unlikely that only a few people would remember an event that occurred just three years ago.

It could also be argued that some other larger news event at the time overshadowed it. However, a review of news events during the week before the spill as recorded in the Encyclopedia Britannica year book for 2000 (which does not mention the spill, but does mention the breakup of the band Phish) shows that little of significance occurred (unless you were a big Phish fan). It appears that the national news media did not consider the spill to be a significant news event.

A comparison of the Martin County spill with the Exxon Valdez spill suggests some possible reasons for the lack of coverage, and possibly how the news media defines newsworthy events. Perhaps how the spill occurred was not considered that interesting. The accidental breaching of a coal slurry impoundment does not have the same news sex-appeal as an allegedly drunken captain running an oil supertanker onto a reef. Without a person to specifically blame, it lacks “human interest” value. Who was ultimately responsible (the company) likely played a role. Exxon is a well



known member of Big Oil and Big Business – perennial popular and media villains. On the other hand, the Martin County Coal Company, which owned and operated the impoundment, would hardly be known outside the local area. In addition, the area in which it occurred may not have been considered that important. The region in which the spill occurred (the Appalachian area of Kentucky and West Virginia) is not highly regarded by many people outside of it. It is not pristine Alaskan wilderness, nor a part of the country that receives a lot of attention. If it had occurred in California or upstate New York would it have received as little coverage? Finally, the people and animals affected by the spill may not have rated that highly in the media's hierarchy of importance. The Valdez spill affected the nearby native Inuit people. The Martin County spill affected principally poor and working class, rural and small town whites. No humans were killed by either incident. The Valdez spill killed photogenic animals such as otters,

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seals, and sea birds. Images of oil-covered animals were one of most emotionally engaging aspects of the Valdez spill. The Martin County spill killed principally small, mundane animals like fish, turtles, and snakes, most of which were buried by the slurry and never seen again.

Political conservatives may complain that the news media has a tendency to overplay the significance of any environmental incident. However, the Martin County coal slurry spill shows that even large environmental disasters are not necessarily newsworthy in themselves. Evidently, if such an event lacks an associated aspect that the media deems interesting, it may receive little coverage outside the local or regional area.

The other question this raises is how might this bias in coverage affect the outcome of various environmental and ground water issues. Consider two examples from Wisconsin involving the environment and ground water. Would the proposed Crandon mine have received as much coverage and generated as much opposition if, rather than Exxon, some unknown mining company had been involved? In the media, Exxon has become synonymous with big business greed and arrogance. During the time the Crandon mine was being reviewed and debated, the Flambeau copper mine near Ladysmith was proposed, permitted, initiated, mined-out, and closed without anywhere near the same level of coverage or opposition. Would the proposed Perrier well be operating now if some lesser known bottled water company been involved? It seems that the elitism connoted by the Perrier name made the story more newsworthy, which in turn likely generated greater opposition.

An unfortunate consequence of this bias in media coverage is to give people a mistaken idea about the source of environmental and natural resource problems. How many people do you know who seem to think that environmental contamination and natural resource depletion are largely associated with large, well-known companies? Many people do not realize that the majority of environmental contamination sites are the result of the operations of small to medium-sized businesses, and few of us likely understand the full extent of our own role in natural resource depletion. Would there be more public concern about impending ground water shortages in the Milwaukee suburbs if Exxon or Perrier had proposed operating there?

For More Information:

The Martin County Project,
http://www.anthropology.eku.edu/MCSPiRIT/Martin_Cnty_Final_Report.html
Martin County Coal Corporation Inez, Kentucky Task Force Report, October 2001
<http://www.epa.gov/Region4/waste/martincs.pdf>

For a video showing the aftermath, response and cleanup see <http://www.clu-in.org/studio/video.cfm>

By Troy Thompson

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New Groundwater Legislation in the Works



On January 19th, water organizations and interested parties were called to the Capitol to help craft a new Groundwater Protection Act. Did you know that there is no regulation of well usage in Wisconsin unless pumpage affects a

municipal well? Bills have been drafted to develop a plan of action before the next Perrier crisis occurs. Your editor, Lee Trotta, is participating as Chair of our Groundwater Guardian affiliate and details of the meeting minutes are [attached](#).

In general, differences were discussed between LRB 3168 (drafted by Senator Neil Kedzie and Representative DuWayne Johnsrud) and LRB 3184 (drafted as a response by the DNR Administration). Both draft bills call for water withdrawal permitting and "groundwater management zones". The DNR bill adds people to manage the program and higher fees and a grant to cover those salaries. Just "who" these permits will affect and "when" is still to be worked out between the two drafts. The group hopes to have the final draft approved and ready to present for Governor Doyle's signature by Earth Day.

Newsletter Advertising Rates

2.5" x 3.5" (business card)
\$20/issue \$60/annual

3.5" x 5" (quarter page)
\$35/issue \$100/annual

5" x 7" (half page)
\$65/issue \$175/annual

7" x 10" (full page)
\$125/issue \$320/annual

Minnesota and Wisconsin Ground Water Associations Share Common Threads

"The following article is reprinted for our readers from the current Minnesota Ground Water Association newsletter. We wish to thank MGWA for this insightful comparison and their Viking friends for the play-off Christmas gift."

With the Vikings and Packers, Gophers and Badgers, the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin have always had their "border battles" in sports and elsewhere. But taking a closer look, you'll find these two states that form the heart of the upper Midwest really have a lot of agreement with one another when it comes to appreciation for and protection of their natural resources. The Ground Water Associations in both states have had a long-standing practice of exchanging quarterly newsletters with one another, and I thought it would be interesting to take a look at WGWA's latest newsletter (Fall 2003; v. 17, no. 4) versus MGWA's (December, 2003; v. 22, no. 4) and see what are the hot topics being reported in each. Before I get to that, however, here are a few comments about how the two associations are organized.

Simple demographics have resulted in some differences in structure of the two associations. The large population center of the Twin Cities has historically meant that most MGWA board members and association activities are concentrated there. WGWA also has a central board and several committees, most of whose activities are located in the Milwaukee-Madison areas. But they also have five area coordinators who serve as contacts for the association in the west (Eau Claire, La Crosse), south (Madison, Janesville), north-central (Stevens Point, Wausau), northeast (Green Bay, Fond du Lac) and southeast (Milwaukee, Kenosha) areas. The state-wide board meets quarterly via conference call and meeting minutes, as approved, are published in the WGWA newsletter and posted to their website (<http://www.wgwa.org>).

The WGWA reports 327 individual members as of November 2003, and 180 corporate members. Annual dues are \$30 for individuals, \$15 for students,

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and corporate memberships are \$25 per person for six or more persons per company. The WGWA account balance as reported by the Treasurer in the Fall 2003 newsletter was \$15,595. The WGWA offices are similar to MGWA's, with positions of Past President, President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer (who also serves as membership chair). In addition, WGWA has three at-large board members, a newsletter committee chairperson, an education committee, and a liaison to the national Groundwater Guardian program. A scan of the WGWA's 2003 officer list shows four of the five are from private industry, while two of the three at-large board members work for private firms. A quarter page ad in the WGWA newsletter costs \$35/issue, or \$100 annually.

A look at both newsletters mentioned above shows a number of similarities. Both were 23 pages in length. Both associations prefer the two-word spelling of "ground water". Both had feature reports on their respective fall field trips, with pictures and stop descriptions. WGWA's one-day trip had 47 attendees and began at Devil's Lake State Park in the south-central part of the state. The trip was led by Dr. Robert Dott of the University of Wisconsin and John Attig. Stops included the Badger Army Ammunition Plant south of Baraboo, Natural Bridge State Park, Ableman's Gorge at Rock Springs, and Van Hise Rock. The day concluded with a barbeque ribs and chicken dinner.

Interestingly, another common thread was that both newsletters reported on Well Advisory Areas (or Special Well Casing Depth Areas, as they are known in Wisconsin). The MGWA gave an update on the Baytown Township Well Advisory Area established because of trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination from an as yet unknown source. The limits of the TCE plume were superimposed on a topographic map (page 10, MGWA Newsletter, v. 22, no. 4). Likewise, the WGWA reported on a TCE plume downgradient of an old industrial landfill near the Rock River in the Town of Fulton in Rock County. The limits of the Special Well Casing Depth Area are superimposed on a topographic map (page 9, WGWA Newsletter, v. 17, no. 4).

One well, located 1300 feet southeast and downgradient of the landfill to near the top of the bedrock (reported as Prairie du Chien Dolomite in this case), had a TCE concentration of 36 micrograms/liter, which exceeds the Wisconsin Code NR 140 Ground Water Enforcement Standard of 5 micrograms/liter. The article specifies construction methods for new wells installed within the delineated area and requires that they be cased to a depth of at least 225 feet below the ground surface and 30 feet into the bedrock, and grouted into either the Prairie du Chien Dolomite or the underlying Cambrian Sandstone.

Old-timers will find one more interesting common thread between the two newsletters. Some will remember Lee Trotta, hydrogeologist for Johnson Screens and the local USGS office, long-time MGWA member, and editor of this newsletter from 1987-1990. Lee returned to his native Wisconsin a few years back and has been working as a private consultant in the Milwaukee area. The Fall 2003 WGWA Newsletter reports that Lee has taken over the editorial reins, and several of his photos of the WGWA fall field trip appear with the field trip article in the newsletter. You can't keep an old editor down! MGWA members wanting to correspond with Lee electronically may do so at: lectrotta53072@yahoo.com.

by Tom Clark, MPCA



What the Public Does and Doesn't "Get"

(Reprinted with permission from the Great Lakes Public Education Initiative, Oct. 2003)

The Biodiversity Project www.biodiversityproject.org received a grant from the Joyce Foundation to follow up on public opinion research we conducted in 2002 and develop a strategy for building greater public support for Great Lakes issues. To inform our campaign strategy, the Project developed and reviewed three sets of information.

1. A review of the 2002 **Great Lakes public opinion research** and recent complementary research projects in Michigan and Wisconsin.
2. **Interviews with leaders** from key Great Lakes policy groups during the summer of 2003.
3. Findings from an E-mail **survey of** organizations, agencies and institutions engaged in **public education activities** on Great Lakes topics.

We used these tools to identify gaps in public awareness and opportunities to connect with the public. From the various public opinion research projects in the region over the last two years, we can conclude the following...

⇨ **There is a strong sense of pride and personal responsibility for protecting the lakes.**

- \$ This sense of personal responsibility is strongest in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois.
- \$ People understand that we *use* the Great Lakes, and therefore, we need to *protect* them.
- \$ The Great Lakes frame much of the region's sense of place and perceived quality of life.

⇨ **The public lacks awareness of the threats to the lakes.**

- \$ The threat of polluted runoff is not widely understood by the public, even though many experts believe it is the biggest pollution threat to overall water quality in the region.
- \$ While people are opposed to water export outside the Great Lakes *states*, there is much less concern about expanded use within Great Lakes states but outside of the *basin*.

- \$ Large majorities believe that industrial dumping and municipal sewage do great harm to the lakes, but only a third of the public places runoff from farms in that category.
- \$ Only two in ten see a great deal of harm from construction of new homes, stores, and roads near the lakes and power plants use of water.
- \$ Only one in six worries about pumping groundwater near lakes.

⇨ **The public does not grasp basic ecosystem fundamentals, specifically with regard to...**

...Hydrology:

- \$ Groundwater is barely on the radar screen – people don't understand what it is, why it has any connection to the Lakes, and whether they should have concerns.
- \$ People don't understand where Great Lakes water comes from, how it is used (and by whom), what impact that has. They don't get the "finite" thing.
- \$ We have succeeded—almost too well—in persuading the public that lower lake levels are simply part of a natural cycle. As a result, concerns about low water levels are not correlated with water use and climate change, but rather framed as "cyclical" and natural.

... or Habitat:

- \$ The notion that the Lakes are a living system is not front and center for most people. The Lakes are viewed through the lenses of water supply,

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Photo courtesy of USEPA/GLNPO

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recreation, and regional economy and identity. Eventually, habitat will come up in a conversation, but it is not a lens through which most people in the region see the Great Lakes. Thus it is easier for people to talk about exports, for example, in terms of regional chauvinism or impacts on boating as opposed to damage to the ecosystem itself.

- ⇒ **While people are concerned about the Great Lakes, there is little urgency associated with many issues.**
- ⇒ **While the vast majority Great Lakes residents feels personally responsible for protecting the Lakes, most people do not understand what they can do, and whether their personal actions have any impact.**
- ⇒ **Not all voters are alike.**
 - \$ Younger voters (under 30) put more faith in the power of individual action by consumers than in political action.
 - \$ Older voters (50 and over) are more confident of the efficacy of political action and more likely to be enthusiastic about policy solutions to environmental problems.

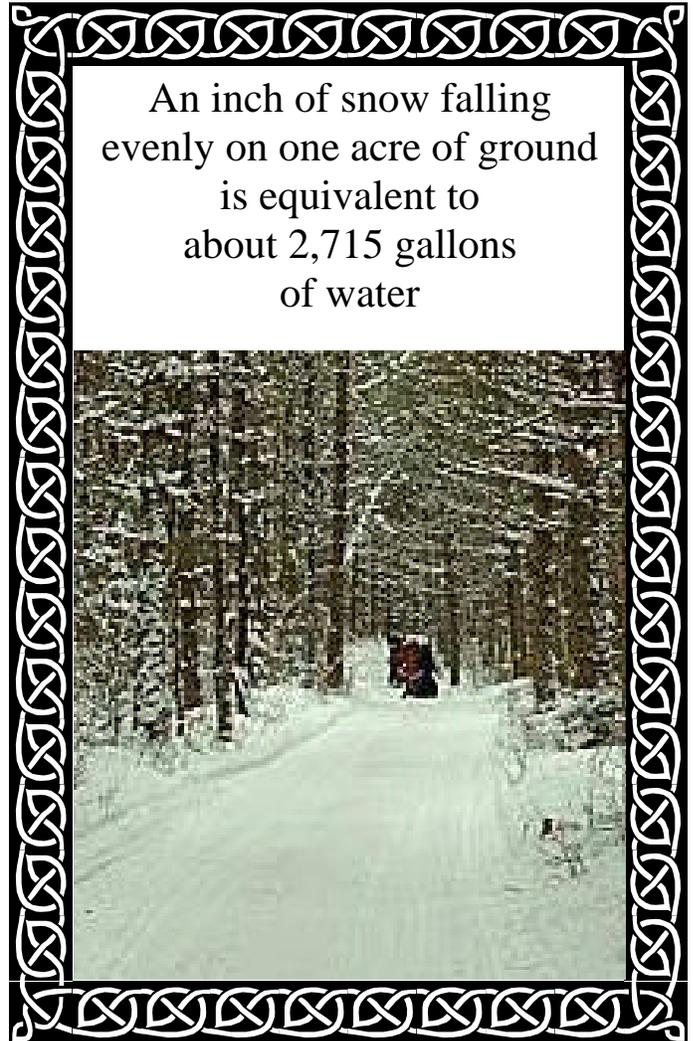


Photo courtesy of USEPA/GLNPO

WGWA Board Meeting, October 22, 2003 (Conference Call)

Persons present: Margy Blanchard, Boyd Possin, Marilyn Weiss (left at 7:30 p.m.), Tom Riewe, Janis Kesy, Lee Trotta (left at 7:00 p.m.), Dave Nemetz, Becky Caudill, Joan Viney (left at 6:50 p.m.), Kathy Reid (joined at 7:10 p.m.) (via phone)

- I. Call to order about 6:30 pm.
- II. Last meeting minutes (July 3, 2003)- Minutes approved. Minutes are posted on website.
- III. Treasurer's Report – Account currently \$ 15,595.38. \$3,565 spent on schools/donations. \$7,235 received in membership dues this year.
- IV. Membership Report – As of October 22, 2003 - 327 paid members. Eleven student members. Sixty-three new members. Corporate members – 180. There were a number of corporate memberships that dropped.
- V. Website – discussion on member only section. Password protection removal. Discussion on need for password. Boyd motioned to eliminate password, rename member only section to newsletter section and additional section for Board meeting notes. Marilyn seconded the motion. Plan to monitor what happens to the membership with website change.
- VI. Reports from Lee Trotta:

Newsletter status – currently have more articles for this edition than needed. Targeting a mid-November publication.

Groundwater Festival – Set date of April 23, 2004 at Waukesha County Expo Center. Both indoor and outdoor space available. Smaller group of planners than last year – WGWA, Pier WI Group and UW-Waukesha. Need to start soliciting contributions and fund raising. Last year WGWA contributed \$2000 to the festival and an additional \$315 to pay for the bus for a school in Madison. WGWA will consider contributing for 2004. Would like to have WGWA members participate at the event.

GG Committee – Meetings on the third Thursday of the month. Group consists of Lee, Janis, John Jansen and Doug Cherkauer. Planning of GW festival – beyond money the festival needs WGWA volunteers to participate in activities.

VII. Old Business

- Education Committee – Brian Hahn was not available to provide an update.
- "Where the Waters Meet" – April 2004 (April 15) conference planning moving forward. Need to find an example person or organization to demonstrate citizen (non-professional) involvement in groundwater issue. Boyd to send a WGWA note seeking a person or organization.
- WGWA conference – April 16, 2004 Holiday Inn, Green Bay. Need to send out a call for papers. Would like original papers from students as well.
- 2004 Officer Elections – Dave Nemetz has agreed to run for president-elect. Marilyn Weiss has agreed to run for treasurer again. Dave will need to provide a paragraph of introduction for himself. Ballots to go out late November via email or hard copy if no email address. Ballots due back December 19, 2003.
- Becky Caudill – at large board member to fill slot to be vacated as of January 1, 2004. Marilyn made motion to approve Becky. Boyd seconded.

VIII. Kathy Ried gave a report on her trip to the University of Toronto, to attend on behalf of WGWA Great Lakes Basin Workshop. Excellent workshop regarding managing of groundwater with in the Great Lakes Basin. How to handle future request for groundwater within the Great Lakes Basin. Participants included US and Canadian advisory group. Approximately 30 participants. Twenty-four observers from invited organizations. Kathy will have an article in the newsletter summarizing the workshop.

- IX. Next board meeting January 7, 2004.
- X. Meeting adjourned about 7:45 p.m.

News from the Treasurer

Marilyn M. Weiss

ACCOUNT SUMMARY (January 1– December 31, 2003)

BEGINNING BALANCE January 1, 2004			14,510.87
	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE
MEMBERSHIP			
2003 Membership Dues/Refunds	7205.00	255.00	
2004 Membership Dues/Refunds	60.00		
Mailings		92.74	
Subtotal	7265.00	347.74	21428.13
2003 CONFERENCE			
Registrants / Deposit / Refunds	3330.00	170.00	
Miscellaneous Costs		2,490.98	
Subtotal	3330.00	2660.98	22097.15
MAY HAZWASTE CONFERENCE	1350.00	1289.57	22157.58
JULY HAZWASTE CONFERENCE	960.00	798.80	22318.78
PG EXAM STUDY GROUP	0.00	157.50	22161.28
NEWSLETTERS			
Newsletter 1		400.00	
Newsletter 2		400.00	
Newsletter 3		469.09	
Newsletter Miscellaneous	100.00		
Subtotal	100.00	1269.09	20992.19
WEB SITE	150.00	585.40	20556.79
MISCELLANEOUS			
Board Meetings		668.4	
Bank Charges		12.75	
Office Supplies		29.60	
Post Office Box		48.00	
Scholarships / Donation		5565.00	
Miscellaneous	391.46	1634.93	
Subtotal	391.46	7958.68	12989.57
	DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE
ENDING BALANCE	\$13, 546.46	\$15,067.76	\$12,989.57

The 2003 Board, Committee, and Area Coordinators

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Margaret.C.Blanchard@mwhglobal.com

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Committee Chairpersons

Newsletter

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Area Coordinators

We are looking for coordinators in many of the following areas. If you are interested, please contact Boyd Possin.

Western Area

(LaCrosse, Black River Falls, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, surrounding area)
Position Open.

Southern Area

(Madison and surrounding area)

John Tweddale

BT²

Phone: 608-224-2830 and 608-224-2839

jtweeddale@bt2inc.com

North Central Area

(Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau, Rhineland, surrounding area)

Tod Roush

Maxim Technologies

Phone: 715.845.4100; Fax: 715.842.0381

ttroush@maximusa.com

Mark Strobel

Earth Tech, Inc.

Phone: 715-342-3022; Fax: 715-341-7390

mark.strobel@earthtech.com

Northeast Area

(Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, surrounding area)

Position Open.

Southeast Area

(Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Racine, Kenosha, surrounding area)

Scott Brockway

Tetra Tech EM

Phone: 262.821.5894 X232; Fax: 262.821.5946

brockws@ttemi.com

Judy Fassbender

Applied Environmental Solutions, Inc.

Phone: 414-507-5571; Fax: 262.560.1963

gofish@globaldialog.com





Join the Wisconsin Ground Water Association Today!

WISCONSIN GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Please take a few moments and become a member of, or renew your membership in, WGWA. Annual dues are \$15 for students, \$30 for individuals, and \$25 per person for corporate memberships of six or more. Dues are payable to "WGWA." Complete the following form and send, with check, to:

Wisconsin Ground Water Association
P.O. Box 8593
Madison, WI 53708-8593

Individual Membership: Regular Member: ___ \$30 Student Member: ___ \$15

Name: _____ Title: _____

Firm/Agency: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Are you interested in participating in any WGWA Committees?

___ Newsletter ___ Membership ___ Web Site ___ Legislation ___ Program & Education

___ Please check if you do not wish to be listed in a WGWA membership directory.

___ Please check if you don't have e-mail access and need to receive the *WGWA Newsletter* via regular mail.

Corporate Membership Discount (six or more individuals): _____ \$25/individual

Firm: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Corporate Individuals (include each individual's e-mail address, if available. Attached additional page if necessary):

Name	Title	E-Mail
1.) _____	_____	_____
2.) _____	_____	_____
3.) _____	_____	_____
4.) _____	_____	_____
5.) _____	_____	_____
6.) _____	_____	_____

___ Check here if your company does not wish to be listed in a WGWA membership directory.

___ Check here if you don't have e-mail, and need to receive the *WGWA Newsletter* via regular mail.