

Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter



President's Message

Dear Members:

I know that for me, the summer has sure flown by. Kids are headed back to school, summer fieldwork is winding down, and I'm starting to look forward to fall. A few years ago, I was at an informal get together with a number of our fellow members and I asked them what was it about WGWA that kept them involved. Everyone agreed that there were two primary reasons. The first reason was the annual field trip. Well, the Fall Field trip is right around the corner. Lee Trotta and a group of dedicated members have put together a great trip for us this year in the southwest part of the state and adjoining area in Iowa. Along with the Officers and the Board, I can't wait to see you there. Last year, a number of the members brought their spouses, and they all enjoyed themselves. This trip really is designed such that families are welcome to come along. See Lee's article and our website for more details.

The second reason that the members said maintained their interest was the annual meeting. We are in the initial phases of organizing the annual meeting for the spring of 2008. If you've got some ideas and would like to get involved, call Lee or me. We are holding this meeting at the same location in Milwaukee where the AWRA Wisconsin chapter meeting is being held and starting the day immediately following. For many of you, this will be a good time to plan a few days out of the office and attend both.

A week or so ago, one of our members contacted me to see if anyone else in the membership would be interested in volunteering their time as part of a team to help Engineers Without Borders on evaluating the geology and hydrogeology of a site in a developing nation. I volunteered my help and if anyone else is interested, let me know.

Again, we look forward to seeing you at the Fall Field Conference and anticipate your involvement in the planning for the 2008 annual meeting.

Michael S. Raimonde
President of the Wisconsin Ground Water Association

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What's so good about renewable energy sources?

Not much, according to Jesse Ausubel of Rockefeller University. He lays out some pretty interesting efficiency comparisons, especially when it comes to hydropower. Can you imagine flooding 247 acres (an area about the size of Black Earth, Wisconsin) in order to provide hydroelectricity for 12 people? To read more, follow the link below.

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/070724_renewable.htm

New proof of water on other planets is found!

Could the discovery of alien life be far behind? Job opening for a hydrologist to study water on the planet **HD 189733b**. Must be able to withstand temperatures of 1340 degrees Fahrenheit. For further details, follow the link below.

http://www.world-science.net/othernews/070711_water.htm

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL FIELD TRIPS



Our Fall field trips start and end at the front door of the Grand Harbor Resort on 350 Bell Street in Dubuque. See <http://www.grandharborresort.com> for a map. You may wait inside the lobby until the bus arrives and most attendees will stay overnight there in order to also take in our Saturday field trip into the hills of Southwest Wisconsin. We have a group rate of \$109 per room available. Bring the kids as that rate includes admission to the indoor water park.

If you should be interested in a car pool going to Dubuque (members only), let us know by making a note on your registration form. **Register now** before your schedule fills up. You will find a registration form on the website at www.wgwa.org/events. You can attend just Friday, just Saturday, or both!

I'd recommend both because you will be sorry about what you missed! On Friday (October 5th), you have the chance to visit legendary Spook Cave (Figure 1) where you can enter a limestone aquifer and float along like a contaminant (a very large contaminant). When you come out, you will be whisked away to the largest spring in Iowa which also doubles as a trout hatchery. Other amazing sites will be visited before returning in time for our banquet at the luxurious Grand River Center where you will hear several captivating speakers.



Figure 1. – Spook Cave entrance

On Saturday (October 6th), the tag team of Bruce Brown and James Knox lead us to outstanding outcrops, trout streams, and alluvial deposits (see Figure 2) in southwestern Wisconsin. Then we follow the nation's longest Main Street to the historic St. John's Mine. See the equipment and hear the stories of historic mining processes. Every field trip participant can collect a sample of the precious metal from the mine and take it home. Dr. Bruce Brown will explain how the mineral deposits were formed and relate the geology to outcrops in the vicinity.

New high resolution aerial photo website. Microsoft is taking on Google Earth. While its new online mapping software does not provide worldwide coverage, it does provide wider high-definition aerial of the U.S. Plus its 3D coverage of many larger cities offers ultra-high resolution and a different angle on aerial photography. Best of all – its free.

<http://maps.live.com/>

● **Conferences, Meetings, and Courses (August – November 2007)**

Selected Ground Water-Related Conferences and Meetings

EPA Workshop on Inorganic Contaminant Issues. Cincinnati, Ohio, August 21-23, 2007

Southwest Hydrology, Regional Hydrology Symposium—Sustainable Water, Unlimited Growth, Quality of Life: Can We Have It All? Tucson, Arizona, August 29-September 1, 2007

EPA, Clean Water Partnership Summit, Cincinnati, Ohio, September 5-6, 2007

26th Biennial Groundwater Conference and 16th Annual Meeting of GRA, Sacramento, CA, September 18-19, 2007

2007 NGWA/U.S. EPA Fractured Rock Conference: State of the Science and Measuring Success in Remediation (#5017), Portland, Maine, September 24-26, 2007

NGWA, 2007 Theis Conference—Conjunctive Management of Ground and Surface Water: Application of Science to Policy (#5100). Park City, Utah, September 28-October 1, 2007

2007 WGWA Fall Field Trip and Special Symposium, Dubuque, IA, October 5-6, 2007

2007 Eastern South Dakota Water Conference and 52nd Midwest Groundwater Conference. Sioux Falls, South Dakota, October 29-31, 2007

[<<MORE>>](#)

For Further Information on the Field Trip Area...

The following websites provide additional information on the field trip area. If you are not sure about going, these will give you some taste of what there is to see. They include both stops for the field trip, and additional places you may want to visit while down there. There are so many things to see and do in this area, it was not possible to include them all in the field trip. So, how about an early Fall mini-vacation, or coming along to scout out a future family vacation?

Geology of the Field Trip Area

The geology of the upper Mississippi Valley zinc-lead district

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/pp/pp309>

Stratigraphy of Middle Ordovician rocks in the zinc-lead district of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/pp/pp274K>

The Geology of the Pikes Peak State Park

<http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/gsbpubs/pdf/IG-26.pdf>

Various Geological Maps of Jo Daviess County, Illinois

<http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/maps-data-pub/ofs/jodaviess-county.shtml>

Southern Wisconsin Driftless Area

Pictured Rock Cave

Wyalusing St Pk

www.uwsp.edu/.../geolwisc/geostops/Wyalusing.HTM

Has waterfall July-Sept

Wyalusing State Park

Located near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/wyalusing/>

Located high on a bluff above the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, you can see three states. Has several scenic hiking trails and great camping. <<MORE>>

Hydrologically Significant Faults in Wisconsin

The map entitled "Earthquakes in the Central United States" (Wheeler, et al, 2007) shows that central States, including Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky and Indiana are among the most seismically active states east of the Rocky Mountains. More than 800 earthquakes are shown on the map, which displays the locations of earthquakes large enough to be felt since 1699. The large-format colored map identifies the infamous New Madrid earthquakes of 1811 and 1812, which by today's standards would have been disastrous temblors with magnitudes around 7.7. The map also shows many smaller, but still destructive earthquakes including a magnitude 6.3 earthquake that shook eastern Arkansas in January of 1843; a magnitude 6.6 earthquake that shook residents of six states on Halloween morning in 1895 and was centered in southeastern Missouri; and a magnitude 5.4 earthquake that cracked foundations and toppled tombstones in southeastern Illinois in November of 1968. <<MORE>>



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