

Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter



Season's Greetings from WGWA

President's Message

Dear Members,

I am pleased to tell you that your 2007 Fall Field Conference was truly a success. The Field Trip Organizing Committee did a great job with logistics and even scheduled enough time for the bus to get stuck in the middle of nowhere and for a utility truck to happen by just in the nick of time. The evening symposium was very interesting and there was plenty of time to visit with colleagues. There were of interesting ground water stops along with very informative presentations on the area geology by our trip leaders including Bruce Brown and James Knox (Thanks to ALL the stop leaders). This really was a great trip.

We are in the middle of planning your 2008 Annual Meeting. The meeting is being held at the Sheridan Hotel in Brookfield starting at noon on March 7 and running thru noon on March 8, 2008. We are trying something a little different this year. We are coordinating our meeting schedule with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) which is holding their annual meeting at the same location starting at noon on March 6 and running thru about noon on March 7, 2008. We hope this will permit our members who are also members of AWRA a chance to attend both meetings without demanding too much time away from their place of business.

With the planning for the Annual Conference well underway, membership stabilized, and a significant number of active members helping plan and execute our key activities, this the perfect time for those of you interested in running for an elected leadership position in WGWA. The President-Elect and Treasurer positions are up for election. If interested, please email me in the next week at mike.raimonde@m-e.aecom.com and let me know.

*Michael S. Raimonde
President of the Wisconsin Ground Water Association*

● [President's Message](#)

● [Treasurer's Report](#)

● [Interesting Articles and Other Tidbits on the Web](#)

Try to do this in the United States.

What do geologists dream of at night? Perhaps building a dam to protect a geologic feature. Only in China could this dream be a reality! China builds dam to protect a paleontological site. http://dinosaurworld.typepad.com/its_a_dinosaur_world/2007/11/china-builds-da.html

When the conditions on the planet's surface became too hostile, the troglodytes moved underground to live.

They created a civilization that had never seen the sun. Is this science fiction or fact? When the Mars Mission finally touches down, one of the first destinations will likely be a cave. Will they find troglodytes, little green men, or bats? The USGS has issued a report based on NASA photos of Mars. http://www.world-science.net/othernews/071007_mars-caves.htm

Droughts, coring, "Out of Africa"!

The following link provides a story that takes basic hydrogeologic research and explains the global consequences of drought. http://www.world-science.net/othernews/071008_megadroughts.htm

WGWA Announces Upcoming Elections Help determine the course of the organization. If you are interested in a potential position or would like to know how you might otherwise participate, contact Mike Raimonde at Mike.raimonde@m-e.aecom.com or 773.756.2427 for further information.

WGWA Board Announces Spring Conference and Call for Papers



The WGWA Conference Planning Committee has selected the date and time for the WGWA Spring Conference "Water Policy and Management".

Location: Sheraton Hotel, Brookfield, WI
Date: March 7 & 8, 2008
Time: Noon Registration (Mar 7)
1:00-5:00pm Presentations (Mar 7)
5:00-8:00pm Poster Session (Mar 7)
6:00-8:00pm Evening Dinner with Keynote Speaker (Mar 7)
8:00-11:00am Presentations (Mar 8)
11:00am-11:30pm Awards (Mar 8)

This conference will immediately follow the American Water Resources Association conference in the same venue. The price and registration form will be provided in a future WGWA notes, but the conference will include a Friday evening meal. Until February 15th, there is a special WGWA room rate of only \$72 (single) or \$82 (double) for March 7th. Monetary awards will be given for the best overall presentation and the best student presentations in podium and poster format.

Poster ideas and papers for presentation are being requested at this time. Presentations of course should be related in some way to groundwater, and should minimize commercial appeals. See the www.wgwa.org website for an abstract submittal form and send them to Lee Trotta at lectrotta53072@yahoo.com. The deadline for submission of abstracts is January 31st, 2008

To make your room reservations, call the Sheraton at 262-364-1100 and ask for the WGWA rate. The Sheraton is located next to the Brookfield Square Shopping Mall at 375 South Moorland Road in Brookfield.

2007 Field Trip and Trout Symposium an Overall Success with a Couple Hiccups

By Troy Thompson

The 2007 WGWA field trip and first ever Trout Symposium (October 5-6) was another success. Lee Trotta and his committee pulled together an interesting set of stops and speakers, and even did a good job with the weather. But they couldn't anticipate everything. For more about that, read on.

The first day of the field trip focused on northeastern Iowa. Starting in

Dubuque at the Grand River Hotel, the trip headquarters, the group headed for Pikes Peak (the first Pikes Peak), a State park high on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. There we had a quick introduction to the geology of the area by Ray Anderson of the Iowa DNR, as well as some really great views of the Mississippi Valley.

From there we proceeded to Spook Cave to play groundwater contaminant in a karst aquifer in one of only two caves in the United States toured by boat. In addition, to seeing the bedrock from the inside and learning more about the area geology from Mike Bounk of the Iowa DNR, we heard the fascinating story of vision and perseverance, or perhaps insanity, behind the opening of the Cave to the public.



View of Mississippi River from Pikes Peak

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

Selected Ground Water-Related Conferences and Meetings

- The 2008 North American Environmental Field Conference & Exposition (January 14-16, 2008 in Tampa, FL)
- Groundwater Foundation Conference (Lakewood, Colorado, November 28-30, 2007)
- New England Private Well Symposium (Newport, Rhode Island, December 3-4, 2007)
- NGWA Ground Water Expo and Annual Meeting, (December 4-7, 2007)
- American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting (San Francisco, California, December 11-15, 2007)
- 2008 Pacific Northwest Ground Water Exposition (Portland, Oregon, February 1-2, 2008)
- Ground Water Industry Legislative Conference/NGWA Fly-in (Washington, DC, February 25-26, 2008)
- AWRA - Wisconsin Section 2008 Meeting (Brookfield, Wisconsin, March 6-7, 2008)
- WGWA 2008 Annual Conference, (Brookfield, Wisconsin, March 7-8, 2008)
- Environment '08 Conference, Federation of Environmental Technologists, (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 11-12, 2008)
- 2008 AWRA Spring Specialty Conference GIS and Water Resources V. San Mateo, California, (March 17-19, 2008)

Selected Ground Water-Related Courses and Online Seminars

- A Practical Approach for Assessing Upward Vapor Intrusion Risk, NGWA Short Course #404 (Orlando, Florida, December 3, 2007)
- Introductory Statistics for Environmental Professionals, NGWA Short Course #176. (Orlando, Florida, December 3-4, 2007)

The next stop addressed the groundwater contaminant issue at a more realistic level. This stop, the Big Springs Trout Hatchery, is the location of the largest spring in Iowa. There we learned the 10,000 to 20,000 gallon per minute is also the discharge point for contaminants and garbage flushed into bedrock of the watershed it drains, and often provides dramatic evidence of the impacts of poor land use practices, such as improperly controlled agricultural wastes, on groundwater quality. The hatchery manager Gary Siegwarth provided a good overview of the area hydrogeology and groundwater issues, as well as the hatchery operations. He then followed it up with a guided stop at a nearby sinkhole. We were a little disappointed



Heading into Spook Cave

that we could not stop and see a brand new sinkhole that almost swallowed up, or at least opened up under, a farmer and his tractor that morning at a nearby farmer. However, Trip Fuehrer Trotta, cracked the whip and insisted we had to get back on schedule.

Unfortunately for Lee, and the rest of us, we subsequently had a different unscheduled stop that we had no choice about. The driver tested the limits of mobility of the bus and found one of them. For more about our near disaster and our dramatic rescue

[click here](#). Following our unplanned stop, we proceeded back to Dubuque with drive-by “stops” at Chicken Ridge, Wilhelm Weitling’s Utopia, and a new ethanol plant near Dyersville, Iowa.

Back at the hotel we settled down for the WGWA’s first ever field trip-related symposium: the 2007 WGWA Trout Symposium. Admittedly some of us were a bit unsure what a trout symposium would be like. Would it just be a bunch of fish stories? However, it turned out to be quite interesting. The speakers for the three regular talks (Gary Siegwarth, Dave Hart, and Chris Lowry) provided a nice discussion on the interactions between groundwater and surface water and the quality of each, as well as how these might affect habitats, such as those favored by trout. Symposium keynote speaker Bill Pielsticker of Trout Unlimited provided a thorough overview from the trout side.

The second day focused on southwestern Wisconsin. Most of the stops were guided by Dr. Bruce Brown of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and Dr. Jim Knox of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They gave us an in depth overview of the Paleozoic and quaternary geology, history, and topographic evolution of this region of geology. Among other things we learned about were the true nature of the driftless area, why it existed, why the Upper Mississippi River is where it is and where it used to be, and about some of the catastrophic floods that have occurred along the Mississippi. [Learning interesting factoids like these is just one of the benefits of attending WGWA field trips. If you really want to know about these, perhaps you can be a trip participant for the information.]

The initial two stops included roadcuts, including the famous Dickeyville cut along Highway 151. There we were able to observe most continuous exposure of Paleozoic geology in Wisconsin.

Following these stops, we stopped at the Majestic View Dairy Parlor (dairy farm) to give equal time to the other side of the agricultural waste handling issue. Well, almost equal time. Herr Trotta was cracking the whip again to

- Introduction to Ground Water Geochemistry and Reaction, NGWA Short Course #239. (Orlando, Florida, December 4, 2007)
- Aquifer Testing for Improved Hydrogeologic Site Characterization, Midwest Geosciences Group (Waterloo, Canada, February 19-20, 2008)
- Advanced Aquifer Testing Techniques Featuring AQTESOLV, Midwest Geosciences Group (San Antonio, Texas, February 27-29, 2008)
- Improving Hydrogeologic Analysis of Fractured Bedrock Systems, Midwest Geosciences Group (Las Vegas, Nevada and the Nevada Test Site, March 25- 28, 2008)

EPA Ground Water-Related On-Line Courses (free, see www.clu-in.org)

- ITRC Protocol for Use of Five Passive Samplers (Nov 29, 2007, 11:00AM-1:15PM EST)
- ITRC Vapor Intrusion Pathway: A Practical Guideline (Dec 4, 2007, 2:00PM-4:15PM EST)
- ITRC Performance-based Environmental Management (Dec 11, 2007, 2:00PM-4:15PM EST)

• The 2006 Board, Committee, and Area Coordinators

President (2007)

Mike Raimonde (2008 President)
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President-Elect (2007, President 2008)

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Secretary (2007-2008)

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Treasurer/Membership (2007)

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Twelve foot deep manure lagoon at Majestic View Farm

get us back on track. There we took a look at the milking parlor (which, given my experience in dairy barns while growing up, was impressively clean and non-smelling). We also had the (once in a lifetime) experience of seeing a giant, constructed manure lagoon.

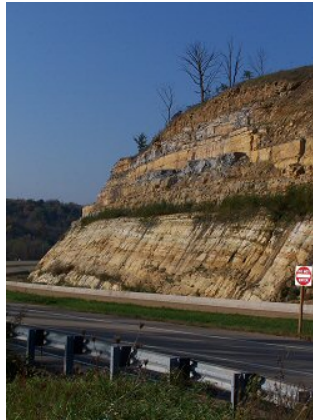
The dairy farm stop was followed by quick stops at Schreiner Park to collect fossils, and Wyalusing State Park to get a further

lecture and overview (literally) of the area geology. This included a look at Cretaceous gravels (or at least the ridges they are found on).

Following lunch in Lancaster, we found ourselves trapped and in danger of becoming a part of Lancaster's Harvest Fest parade. Fortunately, with the assistance of a friendly police office we were escorted (run?) out of town.

The next two stops looked at deposition associated with the Mississippi River and its tributaries. At the Don Orr Gravel Pit near the River we saw evidence of catastrophic flooding at the end of the last glacial period. Near Potosi we look at a relict river valley an got a surprising lesson in river evolution and topography formation.

The final stop of the day before returning to Dubuque took a look at the intersection of geology and history. There we toured the St. John Mine that was one of the earliest lead mines in southwestern Wisconsin. We also learned about the importance of southwestern Wisconsin to the Civil War (ask a field trip participant).



Small part of outcrop along Highway 151



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Police escort out of Lancaster



Hi Ho! Hi Ho! Off to the mine we go.

Get Yourself Published

We are looking for articles for future editions of the WGWA newsletter. Articles should be 1 to 8 pages in length and can include photographs and graphics. Articles should be generally technical in nature focusing on groundwater or environmental topics, but non-commercial or political.