

Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter



President's Message

Dear Members,

Your President's Message comes from a new source this issue. I'm Lee Trotta and as the new WGWA President, I'd like to thank you for being members! We have a lot to look forward to together. The Spring Conference has shaped up to be very promising with a stellar lineup of speakers that will tackle the tough issues. I think we all look forward to hearing the Keynote Speaker, Professor Doug Cherkauer, when he addresses "How long can Wisconsin continue the unmanaged exploitation of its ground-water supply?" Get your registration in quickly!

The future of Wisconsin's water supply depends on work done on projects large and small by our members. My goal is to make our ability to educate the public on these matters more efficient. This is especially important in an election year as there will be a new set of legislators that will need our help. Part of my approach will be to get to know members better and communicate more clearly. Part of what holds our organization back is the widely disbursed population centers where our members reside. I hope to hold more face-to-face Board meetings based on my willingness to travel to population centers like Madison, Green Bay, and Kenosha (maybe even Eau Claire). If you would like to join one of these meetings and have a conference room at your office that we could use, please let me know.

If there are other ways you could see yourself contributing to the mission of WGWA, I'd love to hear about it. We always want to hear about your projects and give you a chance to publish in our newsletter. If you'd like to just report on an interesting meeting you attended or some neat geology you saw on vacation, contact our Newsletter Editor. We have exciting committees forming every few months where you can lend your expertise. Let's go forward together into a brighter future, where the importance of groundwater is understood.

Lee Trotta, PG
WGWA President

[Treasurer's Report](#)

[Board Meeting Minutes](#)

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

What everyone needs to know about safe drinking water This website seeks to address the global problem of safe drinking water by providing peer-reviewed scientific and technical information to lay audiences on problems faced across the world with respect to providing safe drinking water. www.drinking-water.org/

Two minutes to water literacy Know of a public radio station that might be interested in free broadcasts on water issues? This website tells how they can get access to 133 2-minute self contained essays on different topics related to water called *Water Drops*. <http://www.watershedhydrology.com/html/WaterDrops.html>

Some claim Madison is in its own world, maybe they are right Apparently Lake Mendota is the right place for testing a new probe designed to explore the oceans of Jupiter's moon Europa http://www.world-science.net/othernews/080209_europa.htm

[Conferences, Meetings, and Courses \(March-May 2008\)](#)

Selected Ground Water-Related Conferences and Meetings

- AWRA - Wisconsin Section 2008 Meeting (Brookfield, Wisconsin, March 6-7, 2008)

WGWA Test Runs New Formats for Spring Conference



If you have been paying attention to prior announcements, you have probably noticed some new things about this year's WGWA Spring Conference. There are three significant changes in all:

- It is being held a little later this year. Normally it would be held in late February, but this year we are holding it in early March immediately following the American Water Resources conference at the same venue. Separate registration is required for each conference. More information about the AWRA conference can be found at: www.awra.org/state/wisconsin/.
- It has a new format. The first part will be held the afternoon of Friday, March 7th followed by an evening banquet, and the second will be held the morning of Saturday, March 8th. Hopefully this will allow more people to attend who could not get a whole day off from work.
- It is being held in a new location. Ok, this is a new, old location. After several years of being held in Wisconsin Dells, this year it is being moved back to the Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield, Wisconsin

Our theme this year is "**Water Policy and Management**," and a very exciting group of speakers has been assembled. This group will include:

FRIDAY, March 7

- John Jansen (Reukert-Mielke) leading GW/SW Interaction "**Artificial Recharge, Opportunities and Obstacles**"
- Seann McClure (UW-Madison) "**Implications of Diffuse and Focused Groundwater Discharge to Allequash Creek, Vilas County Wisconsin**"
- Kallina Dunkle (UW-Madison) "**Troy Valley Glacial Aquifer: 3D Modeling Aiding Water Management in Southeastern Wisconsin**"
- Joe Piatt (Carroll College) leading Water Chemistry "**Pharmaceuticals in Wisconsin: What is the dose and response?**"
- Rachel Wilberding (UW-Milwaukee) "**Anthropogenic Effects of Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent on Shallow Groundwater and Streams of Southeastern Wisconsin**"
- Bob Nauta (RSV Engineering) leading Water Policy "**Proceedings of the Groundwater Advisory Committee**"
- Jodi Habush Sinykin (Of Counsel to Midwest Environmental Advocates) "**The Great Lakes Compact: Its Value to Wisconsin Water Resource Management**"
- **Doug Cherkauer, Keynote Speaker, from UW-Milwaukee**

SATURDAY, March 8

- Bob Biebel (SEWRPC) leading Water Conservation & Management "**Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Water Supply Planning Program: Findings to Date and Sustainable Options for The Future**"
- Cheryl Buchwald (USGS) "**Overview of the USGS Water-Use Information Program and Highlights from the Wisconsin 2005 Compilation**"

- WGWA 2008 Annual Conference, (Brookfield, Wisconsin, March 7-8, 2008)
- Environment '08 Conference, Federation of Environmental Technologists, (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 11-12, 2008)
- Michigan Ground Water Association Annual Convention (Lansing, Michigan, March 17-18)
- 2008 AWRA Spring Specialty Conference GIS and Water Resources V. San Mateo, California, (March 17-19, 2008)
- 2008 Ground Water Summit (Memphis, Tennessee, March 30-April 3, 2008)
- 21st SAGEEP: Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 6-10, 2008)
- Brownfields 2008 (Detroit, Michigan, May 5-7, 2008)

Selected Ground Water-Related Courses and Online Seminars

- NGWA Principles of Ground Water: Flow, Transport, and Remediation Short Course (#131) (Dublin, Ohio, March 17-19)
- NGWA America's Dependence on Ground Water: Trends and Forecasts in a Changing Marketplace Webinar (#822) (Online, March 20, 2008)
- The Complete Ground-Water Monitoring Field Course, Nielsen Environmental Field School (San Diego, CA, April 7 - 11, 2008; Columbus, OH, May 5 - 9, 2008)
- The Environmental Sampling Field Course, Nielsen Environmental Field School (Las Cruces, NM, March 11 - 14, 2008)
- The Complete Ground-Water Sampling Field Course, Nielsen Environmental Field School (San Diego, CA, April 9 - 11, 2008; Columbus, OH, May 7 - 9, 2008)
- The Complete Surface-Water and Sediment Sampling Field Course, Nielsen Environmental Field School (San Diego, CA, April 14 - 15, 2008; Columbus, OH, May 12 - 13, 2008)
- Ground-Water Monitoring Well Design, Construction and Development, Nielsen Environmental Field School (San Diego, CA, April 7 - 8, 2008; Columbus, OH, May 5 - 6, 2008)



- Kristina Betzhold (UW-Milwaukee) “***A fresh look at a regional imbalance: plausible solutions to water budget concerns in southeast Wisconsin using groundwater modeling***”
- Dan Duchniak (Waukesha Water Utility) leading Water Law “***Waukesha Water Challenges***”
- Art Harrington (Geoffrey & Kahn) “***The implications of Federal and State Climate Change Programs for Managing Water Use***”

- NGWA Hydrogeology of Karst Aquifers Short Course (#393) (San Antonio, TX, May 14-16)

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

- ITRC Real-Time Measurement of Radionuclides in Soil, March 12, 2008
- TRC Evaluating, Optimizing, or Ending Post-Closure Care at Municipal Solid Waste Landfills, March 18, 2008
- ITRC Survey of Munitions Response Technologies, March 25, 2008

Professor Cherkauer’s thought-provoking presentation will be entitled “***How long can Wisconsin continue the unmanaged exploitation of its ground-water supply?***”

This year’s meeting also includes a student career workshop on Friday afternoon (preregistration is required) and a banquet on Friday evening. There will be a poster and exhibit session. The best student presentations will be awarded hundreds of dollars after the conference ends on Saturday.

Register early for the best discounts by clicking www.wgwa.org/springconference.html.

● The 2008 Board, Committee, and Area Coordinators

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What Would YOU Like to See for the Fall Field Trip?

While the current focus is still on the preparing for the Spring Conference, planning for the Fall Field Trip begins shortly after; often at the very end of the Conference. As we are always looking for new ideas to make the Field Trip more attractive, this is an excellent time to begin thinking of them. You can either participate as a member of the Field Trip planning committee, or you can submit ideas or suggestions. Any feasible idea will be considered (a tour of the Hawaiian volcanoes would be fun, but a bit beyond our typical budget and timeframe). Where would you like to go? What would you like to do? Do you want to see more stuff directly related to your everyday work, or geology that you do not normally see, or perhaps more non-geological points of interest? What type of format do you prefer: 2-day or 1-day? Friday or Saturday? This past year we tried something a bit different with a mini-conference in the middle of the trip. If you attended, how did you like it? What do you think of that format? Forward your ideas and/or interest in participating on the planning committee to Paula Richardson (prichardson@rsv-jefferson.com).

NGWA Initiatives for Developing Ground Water Careers

The NGWA Professional Development and the Industry Practices staff are developing a brochure that will provide brief descriptions of different ground water-related careers (lab technician, hydrogeologist, water well contractor, pump installer). The brochure should be completed by April and will be available to NGWA members to use, such as for school career days.

The NGWA Public Awareness department will be advertising in the American School Counselor’s Association magazine and sending the briefs on ground water professionals, hydrologists, and water well contractors to 3500 high school counselors nationwide. Additionally, NGWA Public Awareness will be issuing a news release nationwide through a distribution service promoting NGWA’s Career Center. This effort may generate a larger pool of job applicants, which, in turn, would induce more employers to post jobs to the NGWA online Career Center. [<<MORE>>](#)

WGWA SECTIONAL NEWS



North Central Section

On November 13th members and guests of the northcentral area met to discuss "Monitoring Mysteries".

This meeting was organized by WGWA member Evie Fisher and was attended by two lab managers, a chemist, a landfill operator, two landfill consultants, a city employee, a representative from the paper industry, and the local NR 500 specialist from the WDNR.

Topics discussed covered monitoring schedules and parameters at landfills, the presence and suspected sources of spurious compounds, such as phthalates, the occurrence of BTEX in groundwater associated with biopiles, and the immediate need for improvements to the GEMS reporting system.

Although there were more questions than answers, all the attendees agreed this was an excellent discussion which may be worthy of a sequel.

Northcentral's next meeting will be the second Tuesday of February, 2008

(Aside: I'll see if Evie and Chris (DNR) want to disseminate some of this information.)

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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.