

# Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter



## President's Message

Dear Members,

How long will it take before people and businesses begin to move to the water? Many parts of our country are suffering through drought conditions with little hope for replenishment. "The Southeast is in the midst of a drought so severe some have been putting bowls under their air conditioners to capture the condensation dribble, and cities as big as Atlanta have stared down the prospect of literally running out of water" (Dan Egan, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 3-23-8, p. 1). Nearly all major cities in the Western States say they are concerned about the future of their water supply (NGWA Survey 2007). "Scientists are now raising the distinct possibility that the West is in the midst of a megadrought of a kind not seen for several centuries" (Matt Jenkins, June 2008, "Megadrought" in Men's Journal, New York, p. 65). Groundwater supplies are often shallow in the Appalachian Region of the Northeast and even ten years ago population centers moved to tap nearby rivers instead. The Endangered Species and Wetland Protection Acts are likely to take a back seat to providing drinking water supplies. Then what kind of quality of life are they left with?

The Great Lakes States sit near an obvious surface water resource of tremendous size. The adjacent groundwater resource is even larger. Sure a few municipal pumping centers in Wisconsin have run into problems, but it's nothing that a little creative annexation couldn't cure. Chicago need only improve its sewage treatment (rather than flushing it towards St. Louis) and it would have access to millions of gallons it is granted from Lake Michigan. The local water supply creates easy living and should be a magnet for those living without. So far, however, the dry States have only talked about piping or purchasing our water. Passage of the Great Lakes Compact, which occurred this May in the Wisconsin legislature, should mitigate that threat.

The move here will depend on improvement in the business climate. There must be economic reasons for business to move here in addition to the advantages of green lawns and free water. This may include the creation of tax advantages that attract new business. Once there are jobs available, the people will follow. Perhaps the local water experts should be talking to the Milwaukee Seven!

Your WGWA is active on many fronts and your input is needed. I'd like to announce our new President Elect – Paula Richardson of RSV Engineering. We currently have 2 active committees on Field Trip Planning and Conference Planning, and 2 task forces on Great Lakes Issues and Communication Technology. Please feel free to join or make a suggestion for our next task force. Don't forget to save the date (Sept. 20) for our upcoming field trip. Details will follow.

Lee Trotta, PG  
WGWA President

### ● [Treasurer's Report](#)

### ● [Board Meeting Minutes](#)

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

**State of Ag Chemicals in Wisconsin Groundwater** This recent report from the DNR on background ag chemical concentrations in groundwater may be of interest to those dealing with ag chemical contaminated sites, or people that would just like to know more. [http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/environ\\_quality/pdf/ARMPub180.pdf](http://datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/land-water/environ_quality/pdf/ARMPub180.pdf)

**How to Save (ground) Water at Home** Simple no and low cost ways to reduce water consumption. Some you know, some you probably do not. <http://green.yahoo.com/blog/amorylovins/33/low-cost-ways-to-consume-water-at-home.html>

### ● [Conferences, Meetings, and Courses \(June-December 2008\)](#)

#### **Selected Ground Water-Related Conferences and Meetings**

- American Water Works Association Annual Conference & Exposition. Atlanta, Georgia, June 8-12.
- 2008 NGWA Conference on Eastern Regional Ground Water Issues (#5081), Ronkonkoma, NY, June 23-24.
- Midwest Ground Water Conference. Dubuque, Iowa, Sept 29-Oct 2.
- NGWA/U.S. EPA: Remediation of Abandoned Mine Lands Conference (#5019), Denver, CO, October 2-3.

## WGWA Planning Fall Field Trip

By Paula Richardson



Mark your calendars! The 2008 WGWA Fall Field Trip will be held on September 20th. This year we are planning a one-day trip in southeastern Wisconsin, beginning and ending in Milwaukee. Our preliminary itinerary includes:

- A tour of the Jones Island Wastewater Treatment Plant,
- A stop at the Great Lakes Water Institute, the largest academic freshwater research facility on the Great Lakes,
- A look at beautiful Bradford Beach, where a shoreline restoration project is underway including a pocket beach constructed to prevent sand migration and water gardens installed around storm sewer discharge points to mitigate e.coli impacts on the beach,
- A trip to lovely Estabrook Park to look at an outcrop of the youngest visible Devonian bedrock in Wisconsin (the Milwaukee Formation complete with asphalt vugs) and also talk about sewer discharge to the river, the history of the Milwaukee Cement Company and a brief summary of the remediation of Estabrook lagoon,
- Lunch at Riverside Park in West Bend, former location of the Woolen Mills Dam on the Milwaukee River where removal of the dam has led to 60 acres of previously flooded land being developed as parkland and a rebound of fish species,
- A vigorous climb (or you can take the easy way) up a spectacular kame at the Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail,
- A walk along the boardwalk at the Cedarburg Bog UWM field station, a beautiful fen and a true Wisconsin gem and
- The site of a dramatic slump failure of the bluff along Lake Michigan at Klode Park in Whitefish Bay where a successful (?) shoreline stabilization technology has been implemented.

One of the primary field stop leaders will be Professor Bill Kean from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Milwaukee. We are looking for additional volunteers for stop leaders and there is still time to join the Planning Committee to help with various other tasks. Contact the Committee Chairperson, Paula Richardson at [prichardson@rsv-jefferson.com](mailto:prichardson@rsv-jefferson.com) for a list of these tasks or to be notified of the next teleconference meeting.

We are hoping to have online registration for this event up and running sometime this summer. If you have an interest in attending this event, please email Paula to help her determine our transportation/ food needs.

Hope to see you all in September for another wonderful outdoor adventure!

## Making NR 720 Soil Standards More Flexible – Some Options

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is considering changes to the NR 720 soil standards. It may be beneficial to look to other state regulatory agencies for guidance as to how the standards might be changed to make them more flexible. For instance the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is promulgating soil remediation standards as part of the N.J.A.C. 7:26D rules. This includes soil cleanup objectives protective of human health from the ingestion, inhalation, and groundwater pathways. As with NR 720 the default cleanup objectives are designed to be extremely conservative. This is because regulatory default cleanup objectives represent the worst-case scenario, and as such they can safely be applied everywhere. Consultants can develop alternative soil

- California Groundwater Association Annual Convention. Sparks, Nevada, Oct 30-Nov 1.
- NGWA International Conference on Nonrenewable Ground Water Resources (#5055), Portland, OR, October 13-14.
- Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Organic Chemicals in GW: Prevention, Detection, and Remediation (#5040), Houston, TX, November 3-4.
- NGWA 2008 Ground Water Expo and Annual Meeting (#6010), Las Vegas, NV, December 2-5.

### Selected Ground Water-Related Courses and Online Seminars

- Midwest Geosciences: Improving the Description and Characterization of Glacial Successions for Environmental and Engineering Projects, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 10-11.
- NGWA: Analysis and Design of Aquifer Tests Including Slug Tests and Fracture Flow (#192), Dublin, OH, June 16-18.
- NGWA: Monitored Natural Attenuation: Mechanisms, Site Characterization, Evaluation, and Monitoring (#147), Chicago, IL, August 19-20.
- NGWA: Advanced Techniques for Evaluating and Quantifying Natural Attenuation (#579), Chicago, IL, August 21-22.

### EPA Ground Water-Related On-Line Courses

- ConSoil 2008 Special Session: Green Remediation, June 5.
- ITRC Performance-based Environmental Management, June 5.
- ConSoil 2008 Special Session: Brownfields, Bioenergy and Biofeedstocks (Rejuvenate), June 6.
- ITRC Perchlorate Remediation Technologies, June 12.
- ITRC An Overview of Direct-push Well Technology for Long-term Groundwater Monitoring, June 18.
- ITRC Enhanced Attenuation of Chlorinated Solvents: A Site Management Tool, June 26.



remediation standards (ARS) that account for site-specific conditions. The NJDEP outlines four options for the development of ARS protective of groundwater quality. [<<MORE>>](#)

## USGS News Release

### New Web Site Helps Wisconsin Plan for Safe Drinking Water

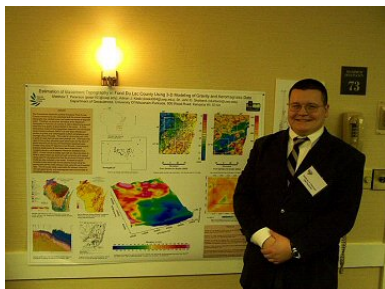
Wisconsin relies heavily on its groundwater--97 percent of communities in the state and nearly 1 million additional residents with private wells use groundwater for their daily needs.

A new web site provides easy access to information about Wisconsin's groundwater to assist local governments in protecting this vital resource and to help owners of private wells tap into safe drinking water supplies.

[<<MORE>>](#)

## WGWA Spring Conference Takes on Issue of Water Supply in Southeastern Wisconsin – and Tries a Few New Things

For this year's Conference participants, the Conference theme, Water Policy and Management, could not have been timelier. While the legislature, media, and other interested parties discussed and debated the necessity and shortcomings of the proposed Great Lakes Compact, Conference participants received an in-depth technical overview of the issues of water supply in Southeastern Wisconsin from the top experts on the subject. Speakers included heavy-hitters such as Robert Biebel of SEWRPC, John Jansen of Aquifer Science & Technology, Dan Duchniak General Manager of the Waukesha Water Utility, and Professor Douglas Cherkauer (key note speaker) of the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin. They provided an overview of the latest information on regional groundwater modeling, groundwater usage and supply trends, and the pros and cons of the various proposals for returning water to the Great Lakes Basin as part of out-of-Basin withdrawals. Participants also had the pleasure of seeing some excellent oral and poster presentations by students. To see what you missed check out the Conference talk abstracts [<<HERE>>](#).



Student Matthew Peterson of UW Parkside and his poster

This year's Conference also tried some new things, and an old venue. The Conference was moved to March 7 and 8 from its typical late February time frame and returned to Brookfield to better facilitate cross-attendance with the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Annual Meeting. WGWA's Conference immediately followed the end of the AWRA conference in the same

hotel. To accommodate coordination with the AWRA Annual Meeting and to give more people the option of attending part of the Conference without missing work, the Conference followed a split-day format with half on Friday afternoon and the other half on Saturday morning. This format also allowed for a Friday evening dinner followed by the key note address.

While the AWRA Annual Meeting and the WGWA Conference occurred consecutively, several WGWA members participated in an AWRA-sponsored lunch on Friday by talking with students about opportunities in the ground water field. This was a very enjoyable and fulfilling experience for those who participated.

## The 2008 Board, Committee, and Area Coordinators

### President (2008)

Lee Trotta  
Phone: 262.641.9341  
lctrotta53072@yahoo.com

### President Elect (2008)

Paula Richardson  
Phone: 920.674.3411

### Past President (2008)

Mike Raimonde  
Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.  
Phone: 262.909.8316  
mike.raimonde@m-e.com

### Secretary (2007-2008)

Troy Gawronski, Hydrogeologist  
Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC  
Phone: 920.496.6850; Fax:  
920.497.8516  
TGawronski@foth.com

### Treasurer/Membership (2007-2008)

Rebecca Caudill  
Natural Resource Technology, Inc.  
Phone: 262.522.1215; Fax:  
262.523.9001  
rcaudill@naturalrt.com

### At-Large Board Members

Michael Raimonde (2006-2008)  
Phone: 773.756.2427  
mike.raimonde@m-e.aecom.com

### Corey Pagels (2007-2009)

Phone: 608.441.5544  
pagels@lbgmad.com

### James F. Drought (2008-2010)

Phone: 414.291.2362  
james.drought@shawgrp.com

### Committee Chairpersons

#### Newsletter

Troy Thompson, Editor  
Phone: 414.217.1541  
trotyrt@earthlink.net

#### Ground Water Sand Model Reservations

Lori Rosemore  
Phone: 715.834.3161  
rosemorel@AyresAssociates.com



Darrell Reed of SEH with well model used teaching children basics of hydrogeology

Currently the Spring Conference committee for next year is discussing the pros and cons of this year's format, selecting a theme for next year, and exploring the potential for an integrated conference with AWRA. There is still a lot to determine between now and the next Spring Conference. If you would like to have a hand in planning it, contact Paula Richardson at [prichardson@rsv-jefferson.com](mailto:prichardson@rsv-jefferson.com)



**Ground Water Sand Model Reservations (continued)**

Kathi D. Ried, P.G.  
Phone: 414.847.0464  
Kathi.Ried@CH2M.com

**Web Site**

Joan Viney  
Phone: 608.216.6850  
jviney@tds.net

**Education Committee**

Paula Richardson  
RSV Engineering.  
Phone: 920.674.3411  
prichardson@rsv-jefferson.com

**Western Area**

Position open

**Southern Area**

John Tweddale  
BT Squared  
Phone: 608.224.2830  
jtweddale@bt2inc.com

**North Central Area**

Jon Roush  
Tetra Tech  
Phone: 715.845.4100  
tod.roush@tetrattech.com

**Northeast Area**

Position Open

**Southeast Area**

Aaron Schneider  
Phone: 414.302.1801  
aschneider@fsnw.com

**MGWA Announces Call for Papers for MGWA Fall Conference**

The Minnesota Ground Water Association (MGWA) Fall Conference is titled "Advances in Field Data Collection". The conference will focus on new techniques for drilling, sampling, onsite laboratory analysis, and geology and ground water measurements (geophysics, aquifer tests, well data, surveying, etc.). [<<MORE>>](#)

**An Open Letter to AWRA for Greater Collaboration with WGWA**

WGWA officers are actively pursuing opportunities for greater collaboration with the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA), the other major professional water organization in Wisconsin. Below is the main part of a letter recently sent by WGWA President-elect Paula Richardson to the head of the local AWRA chapter. If you have suggestions for how to further pursue this relationship, please contact Paula. [<<MORE>>](#)

***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.