

# Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter



## President's Message

As the summer season nears the end I find myself reflecting on my personal and professional goals for the year. Some of my goals have been met, and others remain in progress. I am, however, very pleased with the fulfillment of the goal of providing high quality technical and educational seminars to members of the Wisconsin Groundwater Association (WGWA).

Our dedicated and enthusiastic Board of Directors has been very busy this year planning events and seminars. We are confident the upcoming events will continue to be of both interest and inspiration to our members. The recent and planned events include:

The WGWA Lecture Series continued on July 14, 2010 with a luncheon seminar at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee. Our keynote speaker, Katherine R. Grote, Ph.D, spoke on the topic of "Applied Geophysics for Environmental and Geotechnical Applications". Dr. Grote is a Professor at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Department of Geosciences and is also a Director of WGWA. The seminar was attended by approximately 30 individuals representing the consulting community, academia, government, and private industry.

The Fall Field Trip will be held on September 18-19, 2010 and will include an interpretative tour of the hydrogeology of the Fox Valley. The selected speakers and guides include Dr. William Mode, Professor of Glacial Geology at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh and Dr. Marcia Bjornerd, Professor of Geology and Walter Schober Professor of Environmental Studies at Lawrence University. Participants will meet the group organizers (Jim Bannantine of Geosyntec, John Brown of ERM, Lee Trotta of the USGS-retired, and Kallina Dunkle of the University of Wisconsin – Madison) at High Cliff State Park at 9:00 a.m. on September 18, 2010. The registration fee includes meals on both days, and the camping fees. Interested participants are encouraged to contact Jim Bannantine ([Jbannantine@geosyntec.com](mailto:Jbannantine@geosyntec.com) or 414-339-5630) with questions.

The WGWA Lecture Series will continue on Tuesday, November 16 with a luncheon seminar at a yet-to-be-determined location. Yiying Xiong, P.E. and Bryan Ripp of Mead & Hunt will be speaking on the topic of "Restoring Lake Delton". Invitations for this upcoming lecture will be issued soon. I hope you will consider joining us for this event. We again anticipate a large turn-out for this seminar and encourage you to register early.

Thank you for your interest and support of WGWA. We are always looking for new and creative ideas to grow and service our membership and welcome your thoughts and feedback.

Respectfully,  
James F. Drought, P.H.,  
WGWA Present  
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## Treasurer's Report

## Interesting Articles and Other Tidbits on the Web

Follow the progress on the establishment of University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's (UWM) National Center for Water Technology and Policy in the [following article](#)

[Kohl includes \\$4.5 million](#) for UWM's National Center for Water Technology as part of FY11 Commerce Department budget  
[<<READ MORE>>](#)

## Ocean covered a third of Mars, study concludes

If evidence now shows that the planet Mars once had a third of its surface covered by an ocean, where did that water go? If a portion is now hidden as groundwater, even that possibility might influence future space exploration.

[<<READ MORE>>](#)

## Conferences, Meetings, and Courses (September thru January)

### NGWA Course offerings

### Selected Ground Water-Related Conferences and Meetings (September 2010– January 2011)

**Sept 18.** Train Ride into Tiffany Bottoms Wildlife Area: 9:30am – 3:00pm Buffalo County. [Download registration form here](#). Ride in an antique open-air train eight miles into the Tiffany Wildlife Area, which includes parts of the recently designated [Lower Chippewa River Delta Wetland Gem](#)

**Sept 20 -Nov 19.** Leadership Development in Natural Resources: Strategic Planning and Implementation: Online fall course offered by EETAP & Univ. of WI-Stevens Point. Registration deadline: August 13. Info.: <http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/eetap/index.aspx>



## 2011 North American Environmental Field Conference & Exposition

The Nielsen Environmental Field School is very pleased to announce that the complete schedule of presentations for the 2011 North American Environmental Field Conference & Exposition is now posted on the event web site at [www.envirofieldconference.com](http://www.envirofieldconference.com). This annual Conference, which will be held in San Diego, CA for the first time, is presented by The Nielsen Environmental Field School and sponsored by the American Institute of Hydrology, the American Institute of Professional Geologists, ASTM International, the Groundwater Resources Association of California, H & P Mobile Geochemistry, Schlumberger Water Services, Princeton Groundwater, and CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Publishers. Past events have attracted more than 1700 environmental professionals from around the world. Representatives from 19 different countries attended the 2010 Conference in Tampa, Florida.

The Conference, which will be held January 10-13, 2011 at the Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa on Mission Bay in San Diego, California, features a unique combination of presentations focused on the theme of the meeting, "Advances and Innovations in Environmental Site Characterization, Sampling, Monitoring and Remediation Technology", including:

A Conference featuring 58 invited platform papers discussing cutting-edge field-based environmental technology presented by the world's leading experts in their fields;

A special platform paper session featuring an additional 9 papers on the response to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill;

More than 75 hours of interactive indoor workshops presented by the field's top researchers and practitioners;

More than 30 hours of hands-on, interactive outdoor workshops and equipment demonstrations featuring the latest environmental field methods and equipment; and

An educational Exposition featuring 59 indoor and outdoor exhibits of state-of-the-science environmental equipment and services.

Detailed information on the Conference schedule, event registration and hotel accommodations can be found at the event web site or by e-mailing The Nielsen Environmental Field School at [info@envirofieldschool.com](mailto:info@envirofieldschool.com).

### Contact:

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**Sept 27.** Call for Papers Niagara Escarpment Conference: Now available by contacting [Niagara@escarpmentnetwork.org](mailto:Niagara@escarpmentnetwork.org) or [www.escarpmentnetwork.org](http://www.escarpmentnetwork.org). Questions: [efowler@talrpc.org](mailto:efowler@talrpc.org)

**Sept 27.** Rocks & Revenue: A Symposium on Geo-Tourism and the Niagara Escarpment: 8:30 am-4:00 pm, UW-Fox Valley, James W. Perry Hall, 1478 Midway Rd, Menasha, WI. Learn what the Escarpment has to offer in terms of local and regional tourism and economic development. Registration fees apply.

**October 5 & 6, 2010.** 2-day Professional course by Midwest Geoscience Group "Aquifer Testing for Improved Hydrogeology", Ft. Collins, CO, Cost = \$750 before Sept. 24, [info@midwestgeo.com](mailto:info@midwestgeo.com) or call 763.607.0092

**Oct 7.** Wisconsin Arborist Association Fall Seminar: Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Check this site later for more information: [http://waa-isa.org/calendar\\_of\\_events.asp](http://waa-isa.org/calendar_of_events.asp)

**Oct 14.** European Hiking Trails, Rock Trail Coalition Meeting, JOBS Center, 6:30 pm, room D&E. Info.: <http://rocktrail.wordpress.com/>

**Oct 21.** Wisconsin Wetland Association [2010 Annual Meeting](#) 6:30-9:30 pm at the UW-Arboretum, McKay Visitor's Center in Madison.

**Nov 2-5.** Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Annual Conference: Convention Center, La Crosse, WI [www.wpraweb.org/education.htm](http://www.wpraweb.org/education.htm)

**November 9, 2010,** 8am - 4:30pm, Minnesota Ground Water Association Fall Conference, "A Sampling of Ambient and Non-point Water Quality Issues", at Continuing Education and Conference Center, University of Minnesota, St Paul, pre-registration deadline October 26. [http://www.mgwa.org/meetings\\_2010\\_fall.php](http://www.mgwa.org/meetings_2010_fall.php)



## Preliminary Assessment of Geology and Geologic Hazard of Proposed High-Speed Commuter Rail Route in Southern Wisconsin

By Lee Trotta, PG

What constitutes a preliminary assessment? It is an assessment of an important situation based on available data that recognizes further data collection and study is likely to be needed. The purpose of the preliminary assessment is to focus the anticipated future study on areas of most importance in order to be cost efficient and to provide an early warning of any dangers present. [<<READ MORE>>](#)

For further details on railway plans, see the following [news article](#).

## What's in Your Vodka? – or Why a Good Science Education Can Save You Money

By Troy Thompson

While recently touring a distillery I was amused by the guide's description of how another vodka manufacturer was advertising their vodka as being made with limestone-filtered water. A little research on the internet revealed that the world of vodka marketing is based in part on the fact that there are a lot of people with more dollars than sense; or as P.T. Barnum famously said "there's a sucker born every minute".

The limestone-filtered claim is being made by a manufacturer of a well know vodka that shall remain nameless (lets just say it starts with a color and ends with an animal). Another producer also advertised that their vodka is made with "limestone water". It would appear the marketing people did not think "hard water" would sell. Obviously these companies are banking on most vodka drinkers not knowing what any hydrogeologist knows: namely, not only is limestone a poor purifier of water, but that it actually adds minerals to water because it is soluble. [<<READ MORE>>](#)

## DNR Board Approves Phosphorus Limits in State Waterways

The goal is cleaner water, fewer algae blooms and a better habitat for fish and other aquatic life. Phosphorus pollution from runoff is one of the contributing factors to the foul-smelling algae on Lake Michigan's beaches. The regulations take a two-pronged approach by setting water quality standards for phosphorus and putting new limits on municipal wastewater treatment plants and factories with their own treatment systems. [<<READ MORE>>](#)

Nov 13. Women in Horticulture 2010 Conference: Milwaukee, WI, 414-727-1818 or [info@melindamyers.com](mailto:info@melindamyers.com)

Dec 2. Long Distance Cycling: Rock Trail Coalition Meeting, JOBS Center, 6:30 pm room D&E. Info.: <http://rocktrail.wordpress.com/>

### 2011

January 11-13,. North American Environmental Field Conference & Exposition, "Advances and Innovations in Environmental Site Characterization, Sampling, Monitoring and Remediation", Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa on Mission Bay in San Diego, CA [www.envirofieldconference.com](http://www.envirofieldconference.com)

Jan 30–Feb 1. DNR/WAA Annual Urban Forestry Conference and Trade Show: Hotel Sierra/KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI [www.waa-isa.org/calendar\\_of\\_events.asp](http://www.waa-isa.org/calendar_of_events.asp)

### ● 2010 Officers and Committees

#### President (2010)

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#### President Elect (2011)

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#### Treasurer/Membership (2008-2010)

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## Fall Field Trip

There is still time to join in the fun for the fall field trip. We will be leaving Saturday morning from High Cliff State park in Appleton. We have two noteworthy guest speakers. Dr. William Mode from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will be leading several stops on Saturday afternoon. We will enjoy an evening of camping and camaraderie at High Cliff State park on Saturday evening. Dr. Marcia Bjornerud from Lawrence University will provide a guided tour on Sunday morning of the geology of High Cliff State park. The weather should be good, and this will be one of the last camping opportunities of the year. Please come join us. Contact Jim Bannantine at 414-339-5630 for more information or visit <http://www.wgwa.org/fieldtrip10/register.pdf>

### *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. *With prior Board approval, members can be reimbursed course or conference attendance fees for writing a summary of training received for the newsletter.*

## Committee Chairpersons

### Newsletter

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### Ground Water Sand Model Reservations

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