

Wisconsin Ground Water Association Newsletter



President's Message

The WGWA 2006 Fall Field Trip and 2007 Spring Conference are well into their planning stages, and promise to provide adventure and current and refreshing topics. Tantalizing tidbits of information are included in this newsletter to whet your appetite, and more information will follow as the events approach. Plan on attending the Fall Field Trip September 29 and 30 for a guided tour of Door County you would not likely stumble on yourselves. Boyd Possin, President-Elect, is immersed in mapping field trip stops, recruiting leaders, and solidifying food and lodging details. See you in September!

The 2007 Spring Conference is tentatively scheduled for March or April 2007 in Wisconsin Dells. A call for professional papers will be issued this summer/fall and our new Education Committee Chair, Paula Richardson, will spearhead the drive for student papers and poster presentations. Remember, attendance at the Conference is free to presenters and there is also prize money involved for student presenters (something to keep in mind during any summer internships you may be participating in).

It may seem early to begin planning next year's conference. However, the board recently discussed time commitment issues for the President-Elect's term, which starts in January. The January start date frequently does not allow ample time for Spring Conference planning. Consequently, the board has begun 2007 Spring Conference planning this year to alleviate the inherent time crunch next January. As such, the President-Elect position for 2007 will not involve as much pressure in January-February. If you have been contemplating running, now is the time!

On that note, WGWA elections will be held this summer. Please consider throwing your hat into the ring for President-Elect 2007 or Secretary 2007-2008. The board also appoints a new At Large Board Member each year for a three-year term. You can be a part of the exciting revitalization of our organization without taking on the responsibilities of a voting member-it's a great way to get your feet wet! Let the board know if you're interested in any of these positions, or would like to volunteer for one of the WGWA committees.

In other news, WGWA was represented by Lee Trotta (WGWA Treasurer) at The Water Conservation Initiative Symposium, *Demand Side Management Strategies*, part of Governor Doyle's Conserve Wisconsin agenda. The symposium was held on May 23, 2006 at the Blue Harbor Conference

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"Why Do We Think Aliens Are Made of Water?"

What's the importance of finding water on Saturn's moon? Does it just mean future job security for hydrologists? Explore the lifeshaping ramifications in this article.

[<more>](#)

"Africa Splitting Apart"

See geology evolve in our time! What better way to feel the pulse of the new geology than to stand on the border of an actively splitting tectonic plate? Join the evolution and check this out. [<more>](#)

Google Earth

Google has released a free software product called "Google Earth" that is both useful for geologists and environmental consultants, and just plain fun to play with. Google has created a digital representation of virtually the entire surface of the Earth using satellite and aerial photographs and digital surface elevations. [<more>](#)

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The newsletter is published four times per year. If you have any suggestions or submissions, please contact us at: Wisconsin Ground Water Association, c/o Troy Thompson, W174 N7507 Joanne Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051. Email: wgwainfo@wgwa.org; Web site: <http://www.wgwa.org>. The deadline for submissions to the 3rd quarter of 2006 newsletter is August 15, 2006.



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Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and provided education and offer discussion on demand side conservation. The Water Conservation Initiative identifies conservation as a key step to protecting the quality and enjoyment of Wisconsin's abundant water resources. The initiative will issue a report on demand side conservation measures to the Governor in August 2006. The WGWA Board believes it is important for WGWA to have a presence and participate in such forums, and we look forward to Lee's summary of the event. (<http://psc.wi.gov/conservationWater/symposium.htm>).

Becky Caudill, WGWA President

WGWA News

WGWA Logo Contest

The WGWA Board has moved to conduct a competition to design a new logo. The goal is to develop a new symbol that will represent the renewal and revitalization of our professional organization while being mindful of our valued history. The logo contest will be held from September 1 to October 1, 2006 and will be open only to college students in the groundwater sciences/engineering. This is a targeted effort to increase the awareness of WGWA in this most important demographic. We know that they will recognize the value we offer and choose to join the ranks of the many groundwater professionals whom we are proud to call members. The Board is currently working on the details of the contest and plan to provide more in the next newsletter. We will welcome member's input at (prichardson@naturalrt.com).

WGWA Fall Field Trip will be in Door County

It is time to mark you calendars. The WGWA annual Fall field trip is one step closer to reality. The destination is Door County and the dates are September 29th and 30th. A team of people has been assembled to plan the field trip under the experienced leadership of Boyd Possin. We are excited about the range of potential stops and activities that this location offers, and we are impressed with the offers to provide talks and assistance that we are already receiving from outside people. This Field Trip will offer at least one major stop that should be of interest to all, in addition to geology and groundwater this stop will also include one of the most unique places in North America (hint: it does not involve gift shops). We also expect to include a Door County fish boil. For those interested, there will be the option of extending the trip an extra day for some personal sight-seeing and activities.

WGWA BECOMES AN NGWA ASSOCIATE STATE SOCIETY

In addition to our newsletters, field trips, annual meeting, and networking opportunities, WGWA now offers a new benefit. Our status as an National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Associate State Society now allows our members the following perks from NGWA:

Access to GWOL

WGWA offers their members (for those not also NGWA members) a free one-month trial period to Ground Water Online[®], 90,000 abstract database.

● Most groundwater professionals know how a glacier moves. But did you know that the glaciers have been moving more rapidly than normal of late and that each movement burst sets off a small earthquake? The following World Science report details what seismographers have found in Greenland over the past few years. [<more>](#).

● "Conserving water is the right thing to do" . The Waupaca Public Works thinks so. Comprehensive Planning in Wisconsin: Are Communities Planning to Protect Their Groundwater? Part III. [<more>](#)

● Share your expertise at the 2006 NGWA Ground Water Expo! For more information on the 2006 NGWA Ground Water Expo—Better Together! taking place December 5-8 in Las Vegas, Nevada, visit <http://www.ngwa.org/expo2006/main.cfm>

● The 2006 Board, Committee, and Area Coordinators

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WGWA Board Members also get Computer Discounts On the NGWA website, click the "members only" page and look for the "PC Mall" tab. Great discounts on all your computer and office machine needs are offered there whether for business or personal use. The volume discount afforded by this association is equal to that given to the largest corporations.

Invite someone to join and plan to sit down over good food and drink at our next outing. Become more involved by applying for a Board position and get computer discounts. The website is www.ngwa.org

THE WISCONSIN PG – More than 10 Years Later

Progress in Recognizing the PG Designation Disappointing

It has been approximately 11 years since the Wisconsin Professional Geologist (PG) registration was enacted in November 1994. The hope was the registration would give geologists a more equal footing with the Professional Engineers, and that it would establish a legally defined standard of professional conduct and quality in the performance of work involving the geological sciences. Unfortunately, some of the most basic goals of the registration have yet to be realized. While most geologists working in the environmental and groundwater fields have obtained the PG registration when eligible, the success in establishing the registration as the standard for geological work in the State has been disappointing. Nor does it appear to have significantly enhanced the standing of geologists with respect to that of engineers. [<more>](#)

2006 WRWA Conference Summary

Lee Trotta attended the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) Conference on March 6, 2006. Here is his summary of the speakers and some of the information they presented at the Conference. [<more>](#)

Making Waukesha County More Water-Wise

"WATER*WISE in Waukesha County – Conserving our Valuable Water Supply" was held Saturday, March 25, 2006 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at Carroll College in Waukesha. This program was co-sponsored by Carroll College Environmental Sciences Program, Carroll College Student Services, Clean Wisconsin, Friends of the Mukwonago River, Grassroots of Waukesha, Midwest Environmental Advocates, League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Waukesha County Environmental Action League (WEAL), and Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute (WLCVI). There were a couple last-minute agenda adjustments (sessions on "Preserving Recharge Areas" and "Land Use Policy" were replaced with "Vernon Marsh" and "Water Ethics"), and schedule timing miscalculations (breaks to move between sessions and question/answer periods were too short). However, this is a "first of its kind" program, and it otherwise went off without a hitch. Everyone of the approximately 150 people in attendance seemed to be satisfied.

[<more>](#)

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Ice Age clues unearthed from construction hole

Long before the finishing touches are made to UW-Madison's **Microbial Sciences Building**, a small but significant bit of science has emerged from the hole where the \$120 million, 330,000 square-foot structure is emerging. Using relatively new dating techniques and ancient glacial till and lake sediments gathered from the enormous, 35-foot-deep pit where the building is now rising, Wisconsin geologists have obtained the first reliable dates for the last time a massive ice sheet enveloped what are now Madison and the UW-Madison campus. [<more>](#)

● The 2006 Board, Committee, and Area Coordinators (continued)

Area Coordinators

We are looking for coordinators in many of the following areas. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Caudill at rcaudill@naturalrt.com

Western Area

(LaCrosse, Black River Falls, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, surrounding area)
Position Open.

Southern Area

(Madison and surrounding area)
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North Central Area

(Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Wausau, Rhinelander, surrounding area)
Tod Roush
Phone: 715.845.4100
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Northeast Area

(Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, surrounding area)
Position Open.

Southeast Area

(Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Racine, Kenosha, surrounding area)
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