August 2014

Conference Wrap-Up

This year's conference titled Watersheds, Wicked Problems, and Water Words was held last month with more than 150 registered attendees.

"Getting feedback after conferences is always a really important step in identifying what worked, what didn't work, what we should continue to do, and what we need to improve upon," said Tara Johnson, communications assistant for the Arkansas Water Resources Center.

Jane Maginot with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture emailed the center and said "Your conference always provides an opportunity to catch up on current water issues and research from around the state, but starting this year's conference with the introduction of "Wicked Issues" gave the audience a new way of looking at the issues and research from outside of our numbers-only comfort zone."

"I really appreciate Jane taking the time to email us and give some feedback on the conference," said Johnson.

Links

Find us on Facebook
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Upcoming Events

08/07
IRWP Board of Directors Meeting - Cave Springs, Ark.

08/12
Water Resources Competitive Grants
We have developed a short five minute survey for conference attendees to gather more feedback on the conference and we welcome all opinions, comments, and thoughts. Thank you for attending our conference and we hope to see you next year!

Please help us improve future conferences by taking our survey at the following link: CLICK HERE.

REU Poster Competition

Three students participating in a 10-week Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) were honored for their research posters at the 2014 AWRC Annual Conference in July. Allyson Yarra, My-Lea Coulombe-Quach, and Delaney Hall were awarded first, second, and third place respectively.

50 Years of Water Research!

The U.S. Geological Survey joins the Arkansas Water Resources Center and its many partners in other federal agencies, at universities, and in state and local governments in recognizing the importance of the Water Resources Research Act (WRRA) of 1964.

Signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 17, 1964, the WRRA established a national network of Water Resources Research Institutes across the United States.

“Water makes life on Earth possible, defines our landscape, and shapes our natural heritage. It is key to our continued prosperity,” observed Anne Castle, assistant secretary for water and science at the

Allyson Yarra (above) is a University of Massachusetts Amherst student who participated in the REU program. Her winning poster was titled "Crayfish Occupancy in
Response to Hydrologic Regime and Geomorphology in Ozark Streams”. Dr. Daniel Magoulick with the University of Arkansas served as Yarra’s advisor.

My-Lea Coulombe-Quach (above) is a Purdue University student who participated in the REU program. Her poster titled "Modeling LID in an Arkansas Urban Watershed Using EPA Sustain" was awarded second place. Dr. Marty Matlock with the University of Arkansas served as Coulombe-Quach's advisor.

Delaney Hall (above) is a University of Arkansas student who participated in the REU program. Her poster titled "Determining the Efficiency of Hypolimnetic Transfer to the Epilimnion Using Artificial Upwelling in a Small Reservoir" was awarded third place. Dr. Thad Scott with the University of Arkansas served as Hall's advisor.

More than 19 students participated in the poster competition and winning posters were selected by conference Department of the Interior. “The keen appreciation of the importance of water resources that was expressed by our nation’s leaders in 1964 appears even more visionary today as we are facing the challenges of population growth, increased demand, and climate change.”

Subsequent amendments to the 1964 act broadened the list of National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) so that, by 1983, there were 54 institutes, one in each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.

Fifty years later, the Water Resources Research Institutes, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey, continue to fulfill their roles assigned by Congress in 1964. They have produced path-breaking research, developed innovative information and technology transfer programs, and provided training to more than 25,000 students in their 50-year history.

“The water research partnerships fostered by the Water Resources Research Act are unparalleled,” said Sharon Megdal, Director of the University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center and president-elect of NIWR. “The network of Water Resources Research Institutes connects within states, across regions, and with USGS and other federal agencies to tackle the most pressing water resource challenges of our
Most of the students in the competition were REU students. Students participating in the REU program often come from across the country. The program focuses on field- and lab-based research in areas ranging from water quality and urban spring ecology to animal agriculture sustainability. Projects are supervised by university professors and vary each year.

"We look forward to working with the REU program each summer as faculty, but it is especially rewarding to be able to include these students in our conference and watch them present their work to attendees," said Brian Haggard, director of the Arkansas Water Resources Center.

Arkansas Water Plan Update

The Arkansas Water Plan Update Draft Executive Summary has been prepared and is ready for review by the public, Workgroup members, technical experts, local, state and federal agencies, and others who are concerned about our state’s water resources now and in the future.

CLICK HERE to go to the Water Plan website and view the Draft Executive Summary.

Request for Water Resources Competitive Grants Proposals

Each year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Institute for Water Resources requests proposals for submission to its competitive grant program with the National Institutes for Water Resources. This program provides funding of up to $200,000 (no match required, indirect costs are allowed) to projects that match one or more of the funding priorities.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please contact the Dr. Brian Haggard (haggard@uark.edu or 479-575-
2079). Your budget may need to include funds to support the administration of this grant. Proposals must be submitted by 8/12/14.