June 2014

Don't Forget to Register!

“Watersheds, Wicked Problems and Water Words” is the theme for this year’s conference. Kent Thornton, Systems Ecologist at FTN Associates, will be the keynote speaker and will kick off the concept of a “wicked problem” in water resources management.

Rounding out this year’s conference, Eric Eckl with Water Words That Work, will give a two part workshop on how water resource organizations can effectively develop and manage modern and professional communications programs.

A variety of hot topic issues will be presented at this year’s conference, which is sure to be informative and exciting. More information on the agenda and schedule is coming soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please register at this link before July 9th.
Eric Eckl & Water Words that Work

Eric Eckl will be hosting a two part workshop on how water organizations can effectively develop and manage modern professional communications programs. Eckl founded Water Words That Work, a company that helps non-profit organizations, government agencies, and charitable foundations develop communications initiatives.

“We are really excited to have Mr. Eckl at our conference and can’t wait to participate in the workshop,” said Erin Scott. “We think Mr. Eckl’s workshop and communications expertise will be extremely valuable for our attendees.”

Eric Eckl’s role models include Aldo Leopold, Martin Luther King, Maxmillian Berlitz, and P.T. Barnum.

Eric loves campaigns and would run for office if he could give the job to somebody else after winning. Instead, he helps people like you with your pollution prevention, fundraising, and issue advocacy campaigns.

Doctoral Student Researches Ecosystems of Ozark Streams

Dustin Lynch, a University of Arkansas doctoral student in biological sciences, researches the relationships between stream biota and their environment in the Ozarks in order to determine how to protect the ecosystem.

“My research focuses on the study of environmental flow regimes in the Ozark Highlands,” said Lynch. “I have conducted community sampling of fish, crayfish and aquatic insects for the past three summers from streams across northwest Arkansas, southwest Missouri and northeast Oklahoma.”

Lynch collects habitat, stream geomorphology, and water quality data. He also uses long-term hydrological data from USGS stream gauges.

“I relate biological community data including things like density, species richness and diversity, and trait-based community metrics to environmental data,” said Lynch.

Conference at Beaver Water District - Lowell, Ark.
06/27
17th Annual Buffalo River Elk Festival - Jasper, Ark.
06/28
River City 5k - North Little Rock, Ark.
06/30
AWRA WRM Award Nominations Due
07/09
Deadline to register for the AWRC Annual Conference - Fayetteville, Ark.
07/15
Annual AWRC Conference - Fayetteville, Ark.

If you would like to add your event to this list, please email Tara Johnson at tljohnso@email.uark.edu.
Eric founded Water Words That Work LLC as a marketing and public relations firm for natural preservation and conservation organizations. Since 2009, the company has assisted more than 50 organizations, including the National Park Service, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, the Ogeechee Riverkeeper, and many others.

Before launching Water Words That Work, Eric managed fundraising, media relations, and publishing activities for many conservation organizations. His past employers include Beaconfire Consulting, American Rivers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Eric has appeared in countless media stories, including CNN and the New York Times. He is a frequent speaker at environmental, marketing, and technology conferences. For more information on Water Words That Work, CLICK HERE.

The goal of Lynch’s research is to better understand the complex relationships between aquatic biota and the environment to provide a sound scientific basis for how to protect those ecosystems.

An additional element of Lynch’s research has been collecting water samples for analysis at the Arkansas Water Resources Center Water Quality Lab.

“The water quality data has proven to be very important in some of the models we have looked at, including higher levels of phosphorus at our sites being associated with decreasing diversity and loss of intolerant species among fish communities,” said Lynch.

Lynch’s research is particularly applicable to pressing regional issues in the Ozarks including hydrologic alteration due to water withdrawals and land-use issues, as well as the conservation of vital aquatic resources and ecosystems.

Lynch received both his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in zoology from Oklahoma State University. He is currently working with the USGS Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Arkansas Department of Biological Sciences.

Kent Thornton

Kent W. Thornton, is a Principal in FTN Associates, Ltd., an interdisciplinary engineering and environmental consulting firm with offices in Little Rock and Fayetteville, AR, Baton Rouge,....
We are thrilled to have Kent as our keynote speaker for the annual conference,” said Brian Haggard. “He is a dynamic speaker and we are fortunate to have him kicking off the conference.”

While FTN focuses on solving environmental problems, he has been involved for the last 30 years in resolving wicked problems (issues), which have no solutions – acid rain, climate change, and conjunctive water management. The difference between problems and issues is not semantic, it is an absolutely critical change in mindset that is needed to address not only water issues, but societal issues in general.

Thornton’s emphasis over the past 25 years has been on integrating the scientific and technical dimension with the human dimension.

2014 AEEA Expo
The Arkansas Environmental Education Association presents the 2014 AEEA Expo Natural Education Partnerships July 29 and 30 in Morrilton, Ark. The Expo is July 30 with pre-conference workshops and activities available on July 29. The deadline for registration is Friday, July 18. For more information CLICK HERE.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell recently unveiled the National Climate Change Viewer, a climate-visualization website tool from the Interior Department’s U.S. Geological Survey. The new tool gives citizens and resource managers the opportunity to look at climate-driven impacts on watersheds and map projected changes at the local, regional, state and watershed levels.

Jewell’s announcement follows on the heels of the release of the Third National Climate Assessment, the most comprehensive scientific assessment ever generated of climate change and its impacts across every region of America and major sectors of the U.S. economy. The assessment found that multiple stresses on water supplies are becoming serious challenges in many regions, with the impacts cascading across sectors including agriculture and energy.

“The new USGS National Climate Change Viewer shows projected climate-driven challenges to watersheds and future water supplies across the United States,” said Secretary Jewell. “This information will be valuable to the work of scientists, water and land managers, farmers and ranchers — as well as all interested citizens. As we carry out the President’s Climate Action Plan, this will be a useful tool for planning how to manage, adapt to and mitigate climate change.”
The U.S. Geological Survey developed the National Climate Change Viewer in collaboration with the College of Earth, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University.

For more information on the National Climate Change Viewer click here.