

## New Mexico WRRRI Hosts Research Symposium

On August 13, the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute (NMWRRRI), in cooperation with several federal, state, and private organizations, hosted the first New Mexico Water Research Symposium. About 175 people attended the meeting, held on the campus of New Mexico Tech in Socorro. The one-day event consisted of a plenary talk by Karl Wood, Director of NMWRRRI, followed by two concurrent sessions and an all-day poster presentation. Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico Tech, and New Mexico State University were strongly represented in the talks. Los Alamos National Labs, the U.S. Geological Survey, state and county agencies, the University of New Mexico, and private consultants, with a few speakers from outside of New Mexico, filled out the agenda. Sessions covered a range of topics from policy (Economics and Policy Analysis, Water Security) to technical (Desalination, Water Quality and Pollution Prevention), and from groundwater to surface water (Groundwater/Surface Water Interactions, Wetland and Riparian Issues). The nearly 50 presentations and an additional 34 posters provided an excellent opportunity to learn about current hydrologic research in New Mexico – much of it applicable to the entire Southwest.

*Abstracts of symposium presentations and posters are available at [wrrri.nmsu.edu](http://wrrri.nmsu.edu).*

## Arizona Hydrological Society Annual Symposium Includes Workshops, Presentations, Awards, and Field Trips

Nearly 250 people attended the Arizona Hydrological Society's (AHS) 15th Annual Symposium, held in Flagstaff on Sept. 18-21. The plenary session focused on water transfers, with excellent speakers from the Arizona and California Departments of Water Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the University of Arizona. Following the plenary session, breakout and poster sessions covered a wide variety of topics, including groundwater sources and supply, sampling and analysis, surface water management, recharge, modeling, remote

sensing, rural watershed issues, and regulatory issues.

Workshops included a half-day course on the regulations, funding options, health risks, and treatment of arsenic in drinking water; and an 8-hour OSHA HAZWOPER refresher course.

AHS presented several awards, including three scholarships to students in Arizona universities, and recognition of two AHS interns, who gain professional experience working at a variety of public agencies and private consulting companies. Finally, AHS presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Herb Schumann, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey and expert on subsidence and earth fissures in the Southwest, particularly in Arizona.

Three field trips concluded the symposium. One group visited a wastewater facility that demonstrated alternative wastewater treatment technology, regulations, and systems. Another trip visited historical, current, and proposed water supply locations for the City of Flagstaff. The third trip toured Walnut Canyon National Monument to learn about the geology, hydrology, prehistoric, and historic human use; the recent environmental change; and the future of the riparian corridor.

*A limited number of extended abstracts are available in hard copy (\$20) or CD (\$10) format. To receive one, contact Don Bills at [djbills@usgs.gov](mailto:djbills@usgs.gov) or phone (928) 556-7142.*

## Groundwater Resources Association of California Hosts Annual Meeting

The Groundwater Resources Association (GRA) of California hosted their 11th Annual Meeting and Conference Sept. 18 - 19 at Newport Beach. About 170 people attended the conference, in which the plenary session focused on sustaining groundwater resources. Subsequent breakout sessions covered a variety of groundwater-related subjects, including recharge management, reclaimed water management, water supply assessment, conjunctive use management and optimization strategies, emerging contaminants, and groundwater quality characterization. A pre-meeting field trip on Sept. 17 visited Orange

County Water District's recharge facilities, water reclamation plant, and seawater intrusion barrier.

GRA President Jim Carter led the presentation of several annual GRA awards. GRA's first Special Recognition Award was presented to Bill Mills, former General Manager of the Orange County Water District, which has been a leader in water reclamation and recharge. The Kevin J. Neece Award, described as the "MVP award" for outstanding work during the past year, was presented to the Glenn County Water Advisory Committee, which incorporated community involvement and values, plus a great deal of commitment, courage, and innovation, in their adoption of a water ordinance this year.

Finally, the Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of an exemplary contribution to the groundwater industry, was presented to Thomas W. Dibblee for his major contributions to field geology, stratigraphy, structural geology, and tectonics of California. Hydrologists and hydrogeologists in California frequently reference the more than 500 7.5-minute geologic quadrangles he has produced, which cover about one-fourth of the state. In his career spanning more than 70 years, Dibblee said he "did nothing glamorous." Perhaps not, but certainly impressive.

*Extra copies of the proceedings from the conference are available for \$55. To order them, and to find out about the many upcoming short courses and symposiums GRA is holding, visit [www.grac.org](http://www.grac.org).*

## AHS and Others Will Miss Malchus Baker

Malchus B. Baker Jr., a watershed hydrologist with the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station for 33 years in Arizona, died on Sept. 24. The author of more than 100 books and papers, he was a noted authority on watershed management and history in the Southwest. Dr. Baker was active with the Arizona Hydrological Society (AHS), frequently hosting summer retreats at his ranch in Flagstaff.

*Donations can be made to the Kel M. Fox Scholarship Fund, 2030 E. Speedway, Suite 222, Tucson 85719, to benefit students of watershed management.*