

# THE SOCIETY PAGE

## Nevada Water Group Holds Annual Meeting

The Nevada Water Resources Association held its 2005 annual meeting in Reno Feb. 1-3, with the theme "Growth, Water, and the Quality of Life in Nevada." The keynote speaker was Nevada's new state climatologist, Jeff Underwood. Panel discussions focused on the meeting's theme, and concurrent sessions covered water quality topics such as nitrate and perchlorate contamination and EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System stormwater permit requirements.

Mike Turnipseed, former Nevada state engineer and director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was awarded NWRRA's Lifetime Achievement Award. Christine Thiel, who retired from her position as deputy state engineer of Nevada last year, was also recognized. Diana Lefler was presented with an award of appreciation for her leadership in NWRRA's scholarship programs. Project of the Year was awarded to the city of Sparks for its effluent reuse program.

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## First AGWSE Ground Water Summit a Success

Nearly 400 people convened in San Antonio, Texas, in April to attend the first Ground Water Summit hosted by the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers, a division of the National Ground Water Association. The four-day meeting included technical courses, field trips, keynote and guest lectures, a forum discussion, concurrent sessions, posters, exhibitors, and a student mentoring session.

While close to 30 percent of the attendees came from Texas, the remainder came from across the United States and nine other countries. Attendees represented federal agencies, academia, consulting, state and local agencies, and supporting products and services.

Technical sessions covered the topics of bioremediation, emerging contaminants,

geophysical applications, integrated surface water and groundwater management, water resources in arid environments, groundwater education, groundwater in developing countries, water quality monitoring and data management, pathogens, groundwater law, and remediation technologies.

Of note were presentations by several distinguished speakers. Among these, T. Boone Pickens described his philosophy and attempts to export large amounts of groundwater from rural northern Texas to the urban centers of the state. Douglas Solomon, NGWA's 2005 Darcy Lecturer, spoke about inert gas tracers in groundwater. William Woessner, the Geological Society of America's 2005 Birdsall-Dreiss Lecturer, spoke about viruses and pharmaceuticals in groundwater impacted by septic system effluent.

Allen Moench, of the USGS, was presented with the John Hem Excellence in Science and Engineering Award for his work on

the hydraulics of water-table aquifers and their interaction with surface water.

A Darcy Forum was held in which the future of the groundwater profession was discussed at length. No consensus was reached, but several strong themes emerged: the future of hydrogeology will be more interdisciplinary than ever; some hydrogeology problems are simply too complex to be solved; hydrogeology itself may be relatively mature, but its research future lies in expanding and meshing with other disciplines; and as scale and sample density improve (through such technologies as geophysics and remote sensing), they may open up new areas of understanding for hydrogeologists, much the way x-rays expanded the understanding of human health.

The 2006 Ground Water Summit is already being planned for next April, again in San Antonio.

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