

Luna Leopold Mourned

University of California at Berkeley hydrologist Luna B. Leopold, a giant in the field of river studies, died in February at age 90. Leopold had a profound influence on nationwide efforts to restore and protect rivers and move urban drainage out of culverts into open creeks,

“He made crucial discoveries about the nature of rivers, especially their remarkable regularity,” said William Dietrich, a UC Berkeley colleague of Leopold’s. “He showed that this regularity of form applies to all rivers, whether they are in sand boxes or draining entire continents, at scales of a laboratory flume or the Gulf Stream.”

“In 1969, he practically invented the Environmental Impact Statement through its design and early application to problems such as the proposed Trans-Alaska Pipeline and Everglades Jetport,” wrote Thomas Dunne, a professor at UC Santa Barbara. “It can be fairly said that Luna Leopold has changed the way this society approaches environmental problems and conducts environmental science in the service of people and the natural environment.”

With degrees in civil engineering, meteorology, and geology, Leopold developed his expertise during a 22-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey, rising eventually to the level of chief hydrologist of the Water Resources Division. He then spent 14 years at Berkeley in the departments of geology and geophysics and landscape architecture.

Visit eps.berkeley.edu/people/lunaleopold/ for more on Leopold, including links to many of his publications.

New AZ State Geologist

from *Arizona Geology*, v.35 no.4

The Arizona Geological Survey announced that Lee Allison is the organization’s new director and state geologist. Allison comes most recently from Kansas, where he was the science and energy policy advisor to the governor and the executive director of the Kansas Energy Council. Prior to

that, he was the director of the Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas state geologist for five years, and held similar positions in Utah for nearly 10 years.

Allison also served five years on the Kansas Water Authority and founded the High Plains Aquifer Coalition, an association of science institutions in eight states that addresses scientific and technical issues affecting groundwater in the region. Recently, he has been advising the National Science Foundation on designing and building a national cyberinfrastructure.

Visit www.azgs.state.az.us.

Two in Southwest Receive Wetlands Awards

The Environmental Law Institute announced six 2006 winners of the National Wetlands Awards, recognizing “individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, innovation, or excellence in wetlands conservation,” according to the group’s website. Two of the six winners are from the Southwest: Francisco Abarca of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Higel family of Alamosa, Colorado.

Abarca won the award for state, tribal, and local program development for developing and managing a trinational wetland conservation program that aims to strengthen partnerships among scientists and managers from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. He produced numerous television and radio programs and newspaper articles, coedited the first wetlands training manual in Spanish, and organized World Wetlands Day ceremonies.

The Higel family was recognized in the category of landowner stewardship for selling 1,010 acres of their ranch along the Rio Grande River to the Colorado Division of Wildlife, creating the Higel State Wildlife Area, a riparian corridor that provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife. The family is in the process of protecting an

additional 990 acres through the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands America Trust.

Visit www2.eli.org.

Reclamation Commissioner Keys Resigns

John W. Keys III resigned his position as commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in April after serving nearly 40 years with the agency. Then-U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton praised Keys for his handling of water issues associated with one of the worst five years of drought in recent centuries. He was also recognized for his development of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, a coordinated, comprehensive, long-term, multi-agency effort to conserve and work toward recovery of endangered species and protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the Lower Colorado River.

Newly appointed Acting Secretary of Interior Lynne Scarlett named William E. Rinne as acting commissioner of the Bureau until President Bush nominates and the Senate confirms a new commissioner. Rinne has been with the Bureau for about three decades, most recently as a deputy commissioner.

Visit www.usbr.gov.

NGWA Recognizes Domenici and Latham

The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) recently bestowed the 2006 Ground Water Protector Award on U.S. Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico. The award recognizes individuals in government, industry, and the private sector for their public service in conjunction with groundwater conservation, protection, and use.

Domenici was recognized for his leadership in encouraging the nation to assess its water supply resources by quantifying current water demands,

forecasting future water demands, and developing solutions to meet them. He chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

U.S. Representative Tom Latham of Iowa also received a Ground Water Protector Award for his key support of funding for a federal financing program for household water wells.

Visit www.ngwa.org.

Lake Hemet Water District Selects Wagoner for GM

The Lake Hemet Municipal Water District in Riverside County, California, promoted Tom Wagoner to the position of general manager; he had been the district's assistant general manager for the last 10 years. He replaced Robert V. Lindquist Jr., who retired last October after nine years in that position. Prior to joining

the water district in 1996, Wagoner was an engineer technician and construction project manager with Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). Wagoner said his immediate priorities include overseeing several infrastructure improvement projects. He also plans to work with EMWD and the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto to finalize a regional groundwater management plan for the San Jacinto Valley.

Filling the assistant general manager position is Jeff Wall, who also came from EMWD, where he has been a senior engineer for the past 17 years.

Visit www.lakehemet.org.

Creedon to Lead Central Valley RWQCB

Pamela C. Creedon has been named the new executive officer of California's Central Valley Regional Water Quality

Control Board. Creedon is a registered civil engineer with more than 25 years of professional experience. She has worked in the public sector at the State Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards (Central Valley, Lahontan, and Santa Ana), and in the private sector with Tetra Tech and Larry Walker Associates. In her new position, Creedon will manage more than 250 employees in the Central Valley's Sacramento, Fresno, and Redding offices.

The State Water Board and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards oversee the quality of California's water resources. The Central Valley is the largest of the state's nine regions, encompassing 60,000 square miles, or about 40 percent of California's total area. The area contains one of the largest, most productive agricultural areas in the world and some of the most rapidly growing urban areas in the state.

Visit www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/.



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