

PEOPLE

Alley Receives USGS Communication Award

William M. Alley, chief of the USGS Office of Ground Water, was awarded the Shoemaker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Communication in 2006, according to the electronic newsletter of the Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers of the National Ground Water Association. Alley “was recognized for the collection of USGS circulars that covers principles and issues related to ground water, as well as many fact sheets and magazine articles. Alley was instrumental in conceiving and coordinating this set of publications and was an author of many of them,” said the announcement.

The Shoemaker Awards were established in 1997 to honor Eugene Shoemaker, “whose abilities as both a scientist and a communicator inspired his colleagues and the public around the world,” according to the USGS. The periodically awarded Distinguished Achievement Award is considered a lifetime award that honors an individual’s standing in his or her professional field, skill and enthusiasm for conveying traditional and groundbreaking scientific concepts, and expertise in more than one communication medium.

Visit www.usgs.gov and newsmanager.commpartners.com/ngwanz/issues/2006-10-16.html.

ACWA Director Honored by NWRA and WestCAS

Steve Hall, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), was honored with awards from the National Water Resources Association (NWRA) and the Western Coalition of Arid States (WestCAS) in December.

Hall was recognized for his exceptional career in representing, supporting, and assisting water users in California and the West in general, and received NWRA’s Lifetime Achievement and Water Buffalo awards. The Lifetime Achievement award was in particular recognition of Hall’s tremendous contribution to NWRA and its members during his nearly 13 years with ACWA.

The Water Buffalo award is a special and relatively new award given to individuals who are respected by their peers for their knowledge and force of personality in the water business. Commissioner John W. Keys III is the only other individual to receive the award.

Hall was also recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from WestCAS in recognition of his and ACWA’s support for WestCAS and its efforts on the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. The WestCAS board of directors noted

that Hall personified their motto: “The Voice of Water Quality in the West.”

Visit www.acwa.com.

Westerhoff Receives Busch Award

The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) Endowment for Innovation in Applied Water Quality Research recently presented the Paul L. Busch Award to Paul Westerhoff, an environmental engineering professor at Arizona State University. Westerhoff was selected for his research investigating the fate of commercial nanomaterials in drinking water and wastewater treatment plants, and their potential human toxicity.

The award comes with a \$100,000 research grant that will aid Westerhoff and his team as they attempt to provide fundamental knowledge of nanomaterial interactions to help control them in wastewater treatment plants. This research aims to improve operations of existing plant processes and catalyze research opportunities on the beneficial use of nanotechnology in diagnostic tools and treatment processes.

Nanomaterials—less than a billionth of a meter wide—are becoming increasingly common in manufactured goods and are found in products as diverse as cosmetics

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For additional information, visit the NGWA Web site at www.ngwa.org or call 800 551.7379 (614 898.7791 outside the United States).



Keynote Speaker: John Wilson

Darcy Forum on Surface Water/Ground Water Action:
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Darcy Lecturer – James J. Butler Jr.
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Birdsall-Driess Lecturer – Bridget Scanlon

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and stain-resistant paints. Little scientific information is currently available on their fate in water and wastewater treatment plants, whether they are present in biosolids or effluent, or their potential impact on the treatment processes.

Visit www.werf.org.

Scanlon Selected as Birdsall-Dreiss Lecturer

Bridget Scanlon, senior research scientist at the Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, will be the 2007 Birdsall-Dreiss Distinguished Lecturer, announced the Geological Society of America's Hydrogeology Division, which sponsors the lecture by providing transportation expenses. Scanlon will present one of two talks as she visits various institutions and meetings this year; the lecture topics are ecological controls on water cycle responses to climate variability, and impacts of land use and land cover change on water resources.

Originally from Ireland, Scanlon joined the Bureau of Economic Geology in 1987. She leads a research group whose primary objective is to assess sustainability of water resources, including both quantity and quality, within the context of climate variability and land use/land cover change. Studies integrate physical,

chemical, and isotopic analyses and numerical modeling. Much of the research focuses on impacts of climate variability and conversion of natural ecosystems to agriculture on groundwater recharge in semiarid regions. The group also investigates the impacts of natural and anthropogenic contamination, including nitrate and arsenic, on water quality.

Visit gsahydrodiv.unl.edu.

Johnson New Reclamation Head

Robert Johnson became the 20th leader of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation when he became commissioner last fall. With Reclamation since 1975, Johnson most recently served as the director of the Lower Colorado Region, where he oversaw the management of the lower 700 miles of the Colorado River, Hoover Dam, and numerous other Reclamation activities in southern Nevada, southern California, and Arizona. In that position, he was closely involved with the first water-sharing agreements between Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Johnson also played a major role in securing California's Quantification Settlement Agreement, which addressed California's over-reliance on Colorado River water. In addition, he helped develop and implement the Lower Colorado River

Multi-Species Conservation Program, a coordinated, comprehensive, long-term multi-agency effort to conserve and work toward the recovery of endangered species, and protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River.

Visit www.usbr.gov.

Verrie Pearce Mourned

Verrie F. Pearce, a flood-control expert with a nearly 40-year career at the USGS, died in November at age 79, reported the *Sacramento Bee*. A civil engineer, he was known for his work in flood protection and control in California. Following his retirement from the USGS in 1980, he worked as a private consultant, and after heavy rain flooded the city of Roseville, he designed a flood-warning system of sensors and bridge gauges for the city, which ultimately expanded into an extensive system that recently received the nation's highest federal rating of flood-control protection, said the newspaper.

According to the *Bee*, Pearce "was an authority on recording water depths and flows who traveled all over the world taking measurements in rivers and streams prone to overflowing. He kept meticulous records that officials used to predict flood patterns and develop prevention plans."

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