

People & Companies

Nick Melcher Mourned

Nick Melcher, a 34-year veteran of the U.S. Geological Survey, died suddenly in April. Melcher was director of the Arizona Water Science Center for 13 years, ending with his retirement in 2007. While there, he was recognized for having one of the strongest data programs in the country and developing one of the broadest and most innovative groundwater programs in the USGS. Prior to coming to Arizona, Melcher held positions with USGS offices in Iowa, Kentucky, and Montana.

In 2008 Melcher became the executive director of the Arizona Hydrological Society, where his penchant for order and enthusiasm for both the organization and the profession were most appreciated.

Visit www.az.water.usgs.gov and www.azhydrosoc.org

Hopi Water Director Mourned

Nat Nutongla, director of the Hopi Water Resources Program, died last November. He had worked for the Hopi tribal government since 1990 and was program director since 1997. Nutongla was instrumental in developing and implementing the Hopi Water Code to protect the tribe's water quality. Through his efforts, the Hopi achieved tribal primacy in water quality protection last year from the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency. A member of the U.S. EPA's Regional and National Tribal Operations committees, Nutongla also was active in congressional meetings and met with the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform last year, seeking remediation for uranium-milling-related groundwater contamination on the Hopi and Navajo reservations.

Sharon Masek-Lopez was named the acting program director.

Visit www.hopitribe.org.

Don Davis Mourned

One of the most senior faculty members of the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources at the University of Arizona, Donald R. Davis died in January. Davis joined the department in 1972. His primary research focus was decision making under hydrologic and other uncertainties. An advisor to both graduate and undergraduate students, Davis was especially devoted to the undergraduate program, which he coordinated.

Such was his dedication to the department that he kept his 14-year battle with leukemia a secret from faculty and staff until his final months so as not to cause undue concern.

Visit www.hwr.arizona.edu.

Modeer New CAP Leader

In December, David Modeer was selected as the new general manager of Central Arizona Project by the board of directors of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD). Modeer had been the director of water services for the city of Phoenix, a position he held only briefly after spending about a decade as director of the Tucson Water Department. Prior to that, he was a manager with American Water Works Inc. in Pennsylvania for 26 years.

Modeer succeeded David S. "Sid" Wilson, who retired last year after 14 years as general manager.

Visit www.cap-az.com.

LFR Purchased by ARCADIS

In January 2008, LFR Inc. was purchased by ARCADIS Inc. LFR, an environmental consulting company, is headquartered in the San Francisco Bay area and employs nearly 500 staff; the company will continue to operate as LFR at least through 2009. ARCADIS is an international consulting, design, and engineering company with about 12,000 employees.

Visit www.arcadis-us.com.

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