

WEEKLY WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**

March 9, 2018 / Volume 6, Issue 10

The [Water Resources Research Center](#) - a research and [Extension](#) unit of the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#)

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WRRC Conference - High-Profile Panelists to be Featured

The WRRC conference, to be held on March 28th at the University of Arizona Student Union, features unique high-profile panelists discussing the critical water issues of our time. The first panel of the afternoon, The Environment and the Business of Water, is no exception. Moderated by Kevin Moran, Senior Director of Water Program, Environmental Defense Fund, the panel includes Yamilett Carillo, Director, Colorado River Delta Water Trust, Ted Kowalski, Senior Program Officer of the Walton Family Foundation, Todd Reeve, Chief Executive Officer at Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Taylor Hawes, Colorado River Program Director of The Nature Conservancy. Later in the afternoon, the Water and Economic Opportunity panel will continue the conversation. Moderated by Susan Craig, Communications Director for the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority, the panel includes Charles Flynn, Director, Yuma Crossing

National Heritage Area, Doug Von Gausig, Mayor, Town of Clarkdale, Ernesto Ruffo, Senator, Baja California, and Christine MacKay, Community and Economic Development Director, City of Phoenix. These groups of experts, who are both passionate and highly knowledgeable about their topics, will help us to better understand the interests and contributions of business relative to water for natural areas and the value of water to communities' economic vitality.

[Agenda](#)

Register Today!

WRRC EVENTS

Special Upcoming WRRC Brown Bag

April 12, 2018

Time/Location: 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. / ENR2, S107
(1064 E. Lowell St., Tucson)

Note special time and location

Speaker: Felicia Marcus, Chair, California State Water Resources Control Board



Felicia Marcus was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the State Water Resources Control Board for the State of California in 2012 and designated by the Governor as Chair in April of 2013. The Board implements both federal and state laws regarding drinking water and water quality, and it implements the state's water rights laws. The Board sets statewide water quality, drinking water, and water rights policy; hears appeals of local regional board water quality decisions; decides water rights disputes; and provides financial assistance to communities to upgrade water infrastructure.

Video will be posted shortly after the presentation.

[More About Felicia Marcus](#)

WRRC Brown Bag - Hidden Water: The Fresh Water Pozos of the Gran Desierto

March 13, 2018

Time/Location: 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. / WRRC Sol Resnick Conference Room (350 N. Campbell Ave.)



Speaker: Dr. Ben Wilder, Director, Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill



The Gran Desierto region of the Sonoran Desert is the largest extent of sand dunes in North America. An array of freshwater springs, or pozos, punctuate the salt flats where the dunes meet the sea. Of unknown origin, and essential to countless species, their waters rise up out of the dunes. This presentation will describe the transdisciplinary collaboration between a botanist, hydrologist, and artist,

which seeks to trace the origin of the pozos' water, determine how long it has resided below the dunes, and show how the pozos and the riparian vegetation they support have changed through time. From the traditional salt pilgrimage of the Tohono O'odham people, to nesting raptors, generations of cottonwood trees, and the future of water in the binational Sonoran Desert; these springs are central to the larger story of how humanity interacts with water in the arid west. The project, a part of the [Next Generation Sonoran Desert Researchers 6&6 Art-Science Collaboration](#), will document the results of this wide-ranging and interdependent effort as part of the 6&6 art show at the University of Arizona Museum of Art, opening in January 2019.



If you can't make the seminar on March 13, you can join us [here](#).

WRRC Brown Bag - WATER CASA at 20: Lessons Learned, Unlearned, or Relearned

March 19, 2018

Time/Location: 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. / WRRC Sol Resnick Conference Room (350 N. Campbell Ave.)

Speaker: Val Little, *Director, Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona (Water CASA)*

As Water CASA reaches a milestone -- 20 years of water conservation advocacy, Val Little allows herself a look back and a look forward, through the lens of Water CASA's accomplishments, at some lessons learned from its efforts. Much has changed in the past 20 years in the field of water conservation and in overall water management. A candid look at some of these changes can inform decisions going forward. "If I have learned one thing over the past 20 years, it is that water management is only going to get more complicated and costly in the future," says Little. We must be well-informed and well-prepared to make clear-eyed, rigorous choices for the benefit of all of us."



If you can't make the seminar on March 2, you can join us [here](#).

Upcoming Brown Bag Seminars

- **Apr. 17** - Chris Castro, *Associate Professor, Department of Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Arizona*



- **Apr. 25** - Melanie Stansbury, *Sr. Advisor and Consultant, Utton Transboundary Resources Center, University of New Mexico*
- **Apr. 26** - Cindy Wallace, *Research Geographer, USGS Western Geographic Science Center*



Missed a Brown Bag seminar? Find it posted on our website [here](#).

OTHER EVENTS

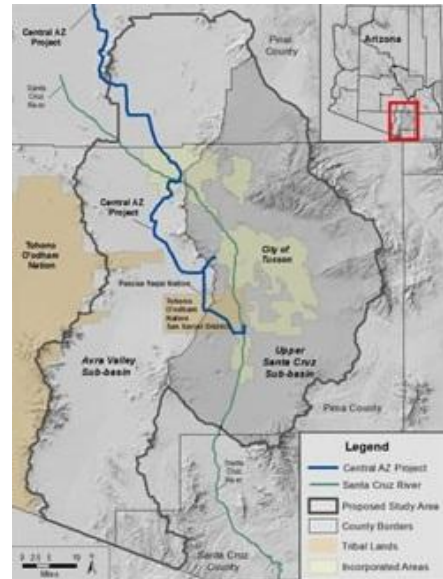
Second Public Meeting - Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study

March 12, 2018

Time/Location: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. / Pima Association of Governments 4th Floor, Santa Rita Room (1 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson)

Meet-and-Greet: 3:30 p.m.

The 3-year Lower Santa Cruz River (LSCR) Basin Study will identify where physical water resources are needed to mitigate climate change impacts and improve water reliability for the municipal, agricultural and environmental sectors in the Tucson region. The second public meeting will provide updates on the LSCR Basin Study and give stakeholders and members of the public an opportunity to share their thoughts on study progress and future activities.



[Register](#)

WRRC NEWS

iWRRC Brown Bag Discusses New SRP Reservoir Planning Model

The WRRC Brown Bag seminar on March 2nd featured the use of a planning model for operation of the Salt River Project (SRP) reservoir system. Steven Nebiker, Vice President of HydroLogics, introduced the model as a tool that can be used to plan sustainable solutions

tailored to the needs of particular systems. It is designed to be used collaboratively so that the modeled outcomes of different operating policies can be compared based on the metrics that people care about. Nebiker has been working with a team from SRP that is using the model to investigate potential operational changes for the SRP reservoir system that improve their drought response. Representing SRP, Tim Skarupa gave an overview of SRP operations and the basis for questions about SRP's drought vulnerability. Andrew Volkmer went into some detail about where they are now in developing the Reservoir Planning Model with future inflow scenarios to test operating rules. Finally, James Walter talked about the problems SRP has run into with using precipitation datasets from climate models to project streamflow, which has



produced projections that were so different from what was seen in the past as to be almost unbelievable. They are also seeing contradictory relationships between precipitation and streamflow in the projections.

[Recorded Brown Bag Seminar](#)

WRRC Presented at the Two Nations One Water Border Water Summit

At the Two Nations One Water US-Mexico Border Water Summit, held March 1-2 in El Paso, Texas, water leaders from Mexico and the United States gathered to discuss shared water challenges and cooperative solutions to water supplies in the border region. WRRC Research Analyst Jacob Petersen-Perlman and Graduate Research Assistant Elia Tapia both presented on the Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program, while other speakers from both the US and Mexico presented on Minute 323 of the 1944 US-Mexico Water Treaty, desalination and groundwater management on the border, and innovative water research and technologies.



[More Information](#)

Volunteers Deliver



Volunteers are the bridges that connect Arizona Project WET (APW) to Arizona communities. Spotlighting one of our many awesome volunteers offers a new window in to the work that APW does.

Cheryl Brown was a special education teacher and is an active Master Gardener who still enjoys supporting K-12 education. This education specialist has found the Arizona Water Festival curriculum to be "excellent" and of great benefit to students now and into their futures. Cheryl said that APW has provided her with insight into how much good work is being done in Arizona by motivated organizations like ours to support our environment. APW gives adults like her a way to give back to Arizona and our children!



[Learn More About APW](#)

Transboundary Water Issues Presented to GEF and World Bank

On February 28th, WRRC Director Sharon Megdal



presented a lunchtime seminar co-hosted by the GEF Secretariat and the World Bank Water Security and Integrated Resources Management Global Solutions Group at their Washington D.C. offices. Dr. Megdal's talk, titled "Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Program (TAAP): A Cooperative Effort of the United States and Mexico," addressed the challenges and successes of TAAP, with a particular focus on the collaborative assessment efforts for the San Pedro and Santa Cruz binational aquifers. Dr. Megdal described efforts to obtain binational approval for the release of the 2016 Binational Study of the Transboundary San Pedro Aquifer. She also provided insights on groundwater governance asymmetries across the national border and on the importance of maintaining funding to ensure successful project completion. The seminar also featured Christina Leb, who works as Senior Water Resources Specialist at the Water Global Practice and is one of the focal points for transboundary water at the World Bank.

TAAP

Summer Writing Internship Available at WRRC - Apply by April 16



The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center is offering a summer internship to a student interested in gaining experience writing about environmental and water issues. The selected intern will contribute to research and writing for an issue of Arroyo, the annual WRRC publication that focuses on critical Arizona water issues. Arroyo is recognized as source of objective, accurate and understandable information and reaches a wide audience that includes policy makers and water professionals as well as the interested public. This year the topic selected for the 2019 Arroyo is the business of water. The issue will delve into various aspects of water from a business perspective, such as water transactions and markets, infrastructure financing, the relationship of water to economic development, and business contributions to environmental goals. Familiarity with principles of economics and water resources is desirable but not required.

The application form and instructions are available at: <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/2018-summer-writing-internship>. Applications are due no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2018. A writing sample of 500-1,000 words and a letter of recommendation are required. Enrolled students in good standing at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University are eligible. The intern will work approximately 20 hours per week for 10 weeks between May and August 2018 for a stipend of \$3,000. Please direct any questions to seden@email.arizona.edu or call 520-621-5670.

Internship Information

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [March 10 AZ Water 7th Annual Run for World Water 5K](#)
- [March 13 Sustainable Water - Part 1 Features Beyond the Mirage](#)
- [March 14 Pima County Regional Flood Control District Brown Bag](#)
- [March 21 GWP Native Plant Nursery Manager - Application Due](#)

- [March 25-28 AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference](#)
- [April 12, 19, and 26 Advanced Smartscape: Irrigation Courses](#)
- [April 16 AHS Symposium - Call for Abstracts](#)
- [April 24-26 IFC Flow 2018 - Registration Open](#)
- [May 2-4 AZ Water 91st Annual Conference & Exhibition](#)
- [May 10 PNW WaterReuse Conference - Advance Registration Ends](#)
- [July 9-11 AWRA Summer Conference: The Science, Management, and Governance of Transboundary Groundwater](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)