



Breaking news about water resources research and education at Texas universities

October 3, 2005

1. New Waves E-letter Launched

The Texas Water Resources Institute is launching an e-mail newsletter to provide Texas water resources professionals with brief, timely information about university-based water resources news, results of projects and programs, and new water-related publications and faculty. "New Waves" will supplement the new "txH2O" newsletter, which contains more in-depth articles. TWRI will distribute the e-newsletter as needed, but no more frequently than every other week.

If you have information for "New Waves" or "tx H2O", please contact Kathy Wythe at kwythe@tamu.edu or 979.845.1862.

2. Water Conservation for Nursery/Floral Growers Evaluated

The Water Conservation Project, a joint project of the Texas Cooperative Extension, Department of Horticultural Sciences, the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, officially started during the TNLA's EXPO industry event on Aug. 18-21, 2005.

The project will evaluate the amount of water used for the production of nursery/floral crops and how nursery growers use water in their operations. The nursery/floral industry represents the largest segment of irrigated crop producers in Texas with \$1.2 billion in receipts, compared to \$1.0 billion for cotton in 2001.

Visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-10-03-04> to continue reading.

3. Project Evaluates 60-day Drought Survival of Turfgrass Species

Texas Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the San Antonio Water System and the Turfgrass Producers of Texas recently began a two-year research project. The project will construct a rainout shelter and evaluate the 60-day drought survival of turfgrass species and cultivars in San Antonio. David Chalmers, associate professor of soil and crop sciences and state Extension turfgrass specialist, and Guy Fipps, professor of biological and agricultural engineering and Extension agricultural engineer, are co-principal investigators.

Visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-10-03-03> to continue reading.

4. Small Water Systems Training Workshop Set for Oct. 28

The Texas Water Resources Institute and Texas Cooperative Extension are offering a workshop on homeland security issues for small water systems on Oct. 28 in Houston. The workshop is funded through Southeastern Technical Advisory Center and the Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information or to register, call the Texas Water Resources Institute at (979) 845-1851 or go to <http://water-workshop.tamu.edu> .

Visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-10-03-02> to continue reading.

5. New Water Resources Faculty

Texas A&M University has added several water resources faculty members in the past year. New faculty includes Georgianne Moore of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Douglass Shaw of Agricultural Economics and Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences, and R. Karthikeyan, of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

Visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-10-03-01> to continue reading.

6. Some Recently Funded Water Resources Research and Education Projects

"Education of Best Management Practices in the Arroyo Colorado"

Use of the Arroyo Colorado's water for municipal, industrial or irrigation purposes is severely limited because of the poor water quality. Education from this project will help restore the Arroyo Colorado, the most important stream draining the delta formed by the Rio Grande in South Texas. The program will educate farmers on how to produce and better manage their land to reduce the potential for non point source pollution. The project is also supporting and promoting associated programs that are implementing best management practices related to water quality protection.

Principal Investigator: Kevin Wagner

Funding Agency: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board/ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"The Impact of Proper Organic Fertilizer Management in Production Agriculture"

The team members involved in this project will demonstrate the benefits of using proper organic fertilizer management techniques on cultivated and pasture fields in the Leon River basin.

Increased landowner use of these practices will result in improved soil quality and water quality in the river basin, which is threaten by excess nutrients and impaired by excess bacteria.

Principal Investigators: Bruce Lesikar and Daren Harmel (USDA-ARS).

Funding Agency: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board/ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"A Community-based Water Quality Curriculum which Enhances Stakeholder Involvement in Watershed Protection Plan Initiatives: A Pilot Project"

The pilot project will develop a community-based water quality curriculum to increase local stakeholder involvement in watershed protection plans. The curriculum will increase local understanding of the forces that can adversely affect water resources and the tools that can be

employed to prevent them.

Principal Investigators: Monty Dozier, Mark McFarland.

Funding Agency: Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If you have a new project you would like mentioned, please e-mail the information to

kwythe@tamu.edu .

7. New Publications

"Treating and Drinking Well Water in the Presence of Health Risk from Arsenic Contamination: Results from a U.S. Hot Spot," W.D. Shaw, M. Walker, and M. Benson. Forthcoming. Risk Analysis.

"Significance of private water supply wells as a route of exposure to aqueous arsenic." M. Walker, M. Benson and W. D. Shaw. Journal of Water and Health, 2005, Vol. 3 (3/September): 305-312.

"Who Owns the Water?" R. Kaiser, Texas Parks & Wildlife, July 2005.

"On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems: Soil Particle Analysis Procedure," B. Lesikar, C. Hallmark, R. Melton, and B. Harris. Texas Cooperative Extension publication. 8-2005.

If you would like your publication listed, please e-mail kwythe@tamu.edu with your information.

News Waves is an email newsletter about brief, timely information about university-based water resources news, results of projects and programs, and new water-related publications and faculty. If you have information for possible inclusion in "New Waves" please e-mail items to kwythe@tamu.edu and include your contact information. All submissions may be edited for grammar and style.