



*Breaking news about water resources research and education at Texas universities*

**Nov. 7, 2005**

### **1. "New Waves" Solicits News**

If your unit or department has news about water resources research or education, results of projects and programs, or new water-related research projects, publications, papers and faculty, please email Kathy Wythe at [kwythe@tamu.edu](mailto:kwythe@tamu.edu). The purpose of "New Waves," the email newsletter for the Texas Water Resources Institute, is to provide a compilation of timely, brief news to people interested in university-based water research and education programs, not only at Texas A&M University but also across the state.

### **2. Water Program Sponsors Weekly Seminars**

Texas A&M University's new Water Program, an interdisciplinary program involving 40 faculty in 10 departments and three colleges, sponsors "Sustainable Watershed Management Seminars" every Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Civil Engineering Building, Room 110. Following is a list of upcoming seminars:

**Nov. 9 Ecohyrology**

B. Mohanty, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, Texas A&M University

**Nov.16 Economics of Watershed Management**

R. Woodward, Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University

**Nov. 30 Integrating Disciplines for Effective Water Management**

R. Autenrieth, Civil Engineering; & R. Kaiser, Recreation, Parks and Tourism Sciences, Texas A&M University

For pdf files of previous seminars, visit

<http://waterprogram.tamu.edu/wmhs681/coursepageswmhs681.html>

### **3. TWRI Solicits RFPs For USGS Student Grants**

The Texas Water Resources Institute announces a request for research proposals for its 2006-2007 U. S. Geological Survey grant program. This program, which is funded by U.S.G.S. through the National Institutes for Water Research, is aimed at funding water resources-related research of graduate students at universities in Texas.

TWRI anticipates funding 10 graduate research enhancement grants of up to \$5,000 in the area of water resources. Information and submission forms for this RFP can be found at <http://twri.tamu.edu> under the "What's New Section" or you may contact Clint Wolfe at [cwolfe@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cwolfe@ag.tamu.edu).

#### **4. TWRI Announces RFPs for Water Resources Grants**

The Texas Water Resources Institute announces requests for proposals for the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the National Institutes for Water Resources matching grants to support research on the topics of water supply and water availability.

Please visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-11-07-01> to continue reading.

#### **5. Peterson Named To Wildlife And Conservation Policy Chair**

Dr. Tarla Rai Peterson has been named Boone and Crockett Wildlife and Conservation Policy Chair at Texas A&M University.

The chair was established with a \$500,000 gift from the Boone and Crockett Club and a matching \$500,000 from the Texas A&M Development Foundation.

Peterson is the newest addition to A&M's water resources faculty. Other faculty are Georgianne Moore of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Douglass Shaw of Agricultural Economics and R. Karthikeyan of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

Please visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-11-07-02> to continue reading.

#### **6. Environmental Quality Management Training Now Online**

Dr. Saqib Mukhtar, Texas Cooperative Extension agricultural engineer, and Dr. Brent Auvermann, Extension agricultural engineer at the Amarillo Agricultural Research and Extension Center, recently developed online training for dairy producers who operate concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Environmental Quality Management of Animal Feeding Operations training is now online at <http://www.peopleware.net/1542> .

Mukhtar said training modules in the curriculum were developed by the Texas A&M University System to because the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality requires people who have operational responsibilities of CAFOS in certain counties to complete similar training courses in animal waste management. Contents of this on-line curriculum may also be suitable for the professional development of Technical Service Providers and others needing similar training.

For more information, visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-11-07-03> or contact Mukhtar at [mukhtar@tamu.edu](mailto:mukhtar@tamu.edu) or Auvermann at [b-auvermann@tamu.edu](mailto:b-auvermann@tamu.edu) .

#### **7. Watershed Management Training Set**

Texas Cooperative Extension in cooperation with the Texas Water Resources Institute is sponsoring a "Watershed Management Training Conference," Nov. 17-18 at the Fort Work Plaza Hotel. The workshop is part of the North Central Texas Water Quality project.

The workshop will feature presentations on managing urban and agricultural nonpoint source pollution as well as informative discussions of the roles of local, state and federal agencies in watershed planning.

For more information, visit [http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/watershed\\_training\\_agenda.pdf](http://nctx-water.tamu.edu/watershed_training_agenda.pdf) or contact Russell Persyn at [rap@tamu.edu](mailto:rap@tamu.edu) or Clint Wolfe at [cwolfe@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cwolfe@ag.tamu.edu)

## 8. ET Network For High Plains Updated

New improvements to the Texas High Plains Evapotranspiration Network (TXHPET) that provides daily weather data, including evapotranspiration-based crop water use, should make it easier for High Plains farmers and others to use the network to schedule irrigation of their crops and conserve the limited supplies of water.

The improvements, developed by Thomas Marek, senior research engineer at Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) at Amarillo/Etter; Dana Porte, associate professor TAES at Lubbock and Terry Howell, research leader, U. S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Station, Bushland; include a new database system, listserv and more user-friendly Web site.

Please visit <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-11-07-04> to continue reading.

## 9. TCE Sponsors Fifth Annual Soil Testing Campaign

Texas Cooperative Extension is sponsoring its fifth year of a soil-testing program to help Lower Rio Grande Valley farmers and ranchers know the nutrient makeup of their soils.

The free program is a project of the water quality component of the Rio Grande Basin Initiative, led by the Texas Water Resources Institute and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

For more information, see AgNews' story at <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2005-11-07-05>.

## 10. Endangered and Threatened Species Studied in the Rio Grande Basin

Researchers in the Texas A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences department have studied the habits of aquatic birds in an attempt to predict the changes in the abundance and richness of wildlife in the Rio Grande Basin, relative to water availability.

An *Endangered and Threatened Species in the Rio Grande* database CD provides a list and description of invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, mammals and plants endemic to the Basin. A simulation model assesses how different actual or potential water availability scenarios might alter the distribution and abundance of aquatic birds in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Neal Wilkins, associate department head, Dr. Enrique Weir, visiting scientist from Venezuela, and Karine Gil de Weir, a doctoral candidate, developed the project.

For more information, visit the Rio Grande Basin Initiatives web site at [http://riogrande.tamu.edu/news\\_2005-10-17.php](http://riogrande.tamu.edu/news_2005-10-17.php)

## New Publications/ Papers/ Projects

**Food service wastewater characteristics as influenced by management practice and primary cuisine type**, O. A. Garza, B. J. Lesikar, R. A. Persyn, A. L. Kenimer, M. T. Anderson  
Transactions of the ASAE, Vol. 48(4): 1389-1394.

Please email information about new publications, papers, or projects to Kathy Wythe at [kwythe@tamu.edu](mailto:kwythe@tamu.edu) for inclusion in "New Waves."

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**"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 research projects, publications, papers and faculty. If you have information for possible inclusion in "New Waves" please e-mail items to [kwythe@tamu.edu](mailto:kwythe@tamu.edu) or 979.845.1862 and include your contact information. All submissions may be edited for grammar and style.