



Breaking news about water resources research and education at Texas universities

Jan. 12, 2006

1. Water Resources Faculty, Programs Win Awards at Agriculture Conference

Several water resources faculty, two water-related teams, a state water agency and a Texas Water Resources Institute's federal initiative won awards Jan. 10 at the annual statewide agriculture conference.

Drs. Ben Wu, Neal Wilkins, Keith Owens, B.L. Harris, Allan Jones, Bruce McCarl, Bruce Lesikar, Monty Dozier, Scott Senseman, Thomas Gerik, and Charles Stichler and Extension agents Billy Kniffen and Raymond Bader were recognized.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board was also recognized for its partnership and collaboration with Extension and Experiment Station personnel.

For the full story go to <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2006-01-12-03>

2. RGBI Team Receives Partnership Award

The Rio Grande Basin Initiative (RGBI) team received the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence for Industry-Agency-University-Association Partnership Jan. 10, at the 2006 Texas A&M Agriculture's Awards Convocation.

Dr. Elsa Murano, Texas A&M University System vice chancellor and dean of agriculture and life sciences, presented the partnership award to the RGBI team for working with numerous individuals, groups, organizations and agencies to reach the goals and objectives originally set forth for the project.

For the full story go to <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2006-01-12-02>

3. Graduate Student Studies Flow Velocity, Biodegradation in Contaminated Groundwater

Texas A&M University graduate student Itza Mendoza-Sanchez and advising professors Robin Autenrieth and Jeff Cunningham are researching bioremediation of groundwater, a technology that employs microorganisms to transform toxic chemicals into non-toxic chemicals.

One aspect of biodegradation that Mendoza-Sanchez and her professors are focusing on is the flow velocity of groundwater. Mendoza-Sanchez is developing an experimental model for the biodegradation of PCE in groundwater to evaluate the effect that different flow velocities have on biodegradation.

Mendoza-Sanchez is a recipient of a \$5,000 2004-05 U. S. Geological Survey research grant funded by Texas Water Resources Institute as part of the National Institutes for Water Research

annual research program. TWRI is the designated institute for water resources research for Texas.

For the full story go to <http://twri.tamu.edu/newsarticles.php?view=2006-01-12-01>

4. Irrigation Engineer Featured in AgNews about his Afghanistan Assignment

Dr. Guy Fipps, a Texas Cooperative Extension irrigation specialist, was featured in an AgNews article about his new assignment the senior water advisor for the Afghanistan Reconstruction Group. He will help develop water resources, treatment and delivery systems and policies in a country that has been ravished by more than two decades of war, he said. He plans to analyze irrigation needs and determine what is needed to rehabilitate existing systems.

For the complete AgNews story go to <http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/AGEN/Jan0506a.htm>

New Publications/ Papers

Water Resource Economics and Policy, An Introduction; W. Douglass Shaw, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences,

This comprehensive volume clarifies the role of economics and offers material that can be applied to water resource allocation problems around the world. Topics covered include: groundwater, floods and droughts, *in situ* uses of water and institutions and law.

"*The transport of waterborne solutes and bacteriophage in soil subirrigated with a wastewater blend*," Agriculture Ecosystems and Environment, N.W. Assadian, G.D. Di Giovanni and J. Iglesias, of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at El Paso; J. Enciso, of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center at Weslaco; and W. Lindemann of New Mexico State University.

"Rainwater harvesting offers many conservation benefits," Michel Mecke, Program Specialist-Water Management, Texas Cooperative Extension, The CrossSection, a monthly publication Of The High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

For a copy of the article go to <http://www.hpwd.com/CrossSection/12-2005%20Cross%20Section.pdf>.

"News Waves," an email newsletter of Texas Water Resources Institute – the water research institute of Texas, publishes timely information about water resources news, results of projects and programs, and new water-related research projects, publications, papers and faculty, at universities of Texas. If you have information for possible inclusion in "New Waves" please e-mail items to kwythe@tamu.edu or 979.845.1862 and include your contact information. All submissions may be edited for grammar and style.

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