

SUMMER WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



June 9, 2023 / Volume 11, Issue 3

The Water Resources Research Center - a research unit of the [College of Agriculture and Life Sciences](#) and an Extension unit in [UA Cooperative Extension](#) within the Division of Agriculture, Life & Veterinary Sciences & Cooperative Extension. [Land Acknowledgement](#).

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WRRC 2022 Annual Report Published

The WRRC is pleased to announce the publication of its 2022 Annual Report. The report highlights how, through applied research, outreach, and engagement, the WRRC continues to contribute to water resource planning, assessment, and capacity building, as well as expand awareness and understanding of water resource issues. As Arizona and the region face unprecedented water challenges, the WRRC serves as a trusted source

for reliable information. The report appendices contain details on specific activities and progress toward strategic goals. Our two-page 2022 Highlights provides summary information on our engagement, links to online WRRC resources, and the 2022 financial summary.

Image: Robert Baker, WRRC 2022 Photo Contest

[Annual Report and Appendices](#)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Early Bird Registration Closing Soon!

Don't wait to register for the WRRRC 2023 Annual Conference! Discounted Early Bird registration closes on June 14. Thanks to the generosity of our conference sponsors, Early Bird registration for this year's multi-day conference is only \$110 (\$65 for a single day). Beginning June 15, the rate will increase to \$130 (\$75 for a single day). We are also pleased to offer a \$30 Student registration rate. For those who cannot make it to Tucson, we are offering Free non-interactive livestreaming of the event. This year's conference program aims to address the pressing water resources challenges currently facing Arizona and the region by bringing forward ideas that offer pathways to water security for all. Held in person July 11–12 at the UArizona Student Union in Tucson, the two-day program features over 50 speakers and presenters to cover a diverse range of panel discussions, keynotes, and poster presentations. Day 1 will conclude with an evening reception where attendees can continue their conversations while enjoying some refreshments and a non-hosted bar. We invite you to join us to engage in robust solutions-focused discussions. Check out the draft agenda and register today. We hope to see many of you in Tucson this July!

- [Register Today!](#)
- [Conference Agenda](#)
- [More Info](#)

EVENTS

WRRC Special Event: Brave the Wild River – A Reading by Author Melissa Sevigny, with Book Signing to Follow

Date: Friday, June 16, 2023

Times: 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Arizona Time

Location: 350 N Campbell Ave. ([Registration required](#))

Speaker: Melissa L. Sevigny, *Science Journalist, KNAU, Arizona Public Radio*



Please join us for this WRRC Special Event to celebrate the release of UArizona alumna Melissa L. Sevigny's new book, *Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon*. Evocative and beautifully written, *Brave the Wild River* chronicles the history-making journey of botanists Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter through the Grand Canyon in the summer of 1938. These two intrepid women led an expedition to “botanize” the beautiful and bizarre plant life of this then little-known corner of the American West. With its surges of snowmelt, muddy landslides carrying boulders and debris, frothy whirlpools, and perilous waves, the Colorado River was considered the most dangerous river in the world, and at the time only a handful of men, and no women, had survived a boat journey through the Grand Canyon. *Brave the Wild River* is a loving tribute to two remarkable women—who valued their curiosity about the world more than their presumed place in it—and the adventure of a lifetime. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Image: Alexis Knapp

[Register Here](#)
[More Info](#)

Upcoming WRRC Events

Jul 11–12: [WRRC 2023 Annual Conference: What Can We Do? Solutions to Arizona's Water Challenges](#)

External Events

Aug 3–4: [31st Annual Arizona Water Law Conference](#)

NEWS

WRRC Seeks Associate Director/Specialist

The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) is actively seeking candidates for its Associate Director / Extension Specialist position to work closely with the Director, providing center administration, program direction, and leadership for WRRC. In this position, the successful candidate will also conduct applied research and engagement, pursue scholarly activities, and establish and maintain extramural funding. The minimum qualifications include a Doctorate or equivalent terminal degree, a minimum of five years of work experience related to Arizona's and regional water management, a

strong record of scholarly accomplishments, and a record of collaborative projects and programs. The WRRC is administratively located within the University of Arizona's Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension and is also part of the National Institutes for Water Resources, a national network of federally authorized institutes/centers that address unique water-related concerns of the individual states and the nation. The academic home of the position will depend on the candidate's specialization and the rank will depend on the candidate's record and experience. Please visit [UA Talent req14913](#) for additional information on the position and to apply.



[WRRC Associate Director Job Posting](#)

Tucson Irrigation Team Transforms Landscapes Using HOA Support

In his June 1 WRRC Seminar, Hans Huth shared a wealth of information on water harvesting, erosion control, and how communities can conserve water. Huth leads a team of volunteers through his group, Agua Dulce, supported by Homeowners' Association (HOA) resources, to harvest water and improve common areas in his community. Huth gave an overview of strategies to minimize water consumption to improve local plant life conditions and shared important resources for those looking to get involved in watershed conservation. His key tips include highlighting the cost efficiency of conservation via the drip irrigation system, being transparent regarding changes and initiatives, documenting changes and growth over time, working closely with landscapers, and emphasizing the communication of successes and progress for those involved. Huth emphasized the importance of volunteers, as many of these individual initiatives rely on community involvement and support. He argued that "conservation is not expensive," and that discovering cost-efficient ways to manage the irrigation systems leads to improved quality of life for both residents and wildlife. To get involved or learn more, reach out to Huth via email at aguadulcehans@gmail.com or review the resources discussed in the webinar in this [Google Doc](#).



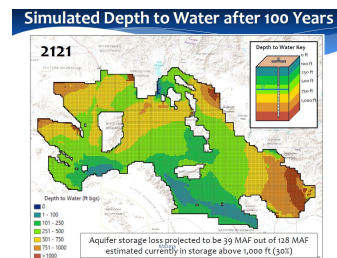
Image: Hans Huth

[View the Recording More Info](#)

ADWR Releases New Model for Phoenix AMA

The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) has released a new groundwater model for the Phoenix Active Management Area (AMA). After reviewing and analyzing data, ADWR projects that over the next 100 years, there will be 4.86 million acre-feet of "unmet demand" for groundwater.

As a result, "the State will not approve new determinations of Assured Water Supply within the Phoenix AMA based on groundwater supplies." A determination of Assured Water Supply (AWS) requires new developments to demonstrate sufficient supply of water that is of adequate quality and physically, continuously, and legally available to satisfy the



developments' needs for at least 100 years. Now, new subdivision developments will need to find alternative non-groundwater sources to meet these criteria. Developments with existing AWS certificates or those within a water provider service area with an AWS designation, however, will not be affected. In a Washington Post article covering the groundwater model's release, WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal noted that the model suggests that development in the Phoenix AMA may change, shifting growth to areas where land and infrastructure costs may be higher.

Image: ADWR

- [ADWR Statement](#)
- [Arizona Water Blueprint Explainer](#)
- [Washington Post Article](#)

UArizona Researchers Lead \$70M Guayule Project

University of Arizona researchers teamed up with Bridgestone Americas Inc. to develop a new, more sustainable approach to creating natural rubber. Guayule is a perennial shrub that thrives in arid climates like the American Southwest and could be a promising alternative to rubber made from para rubber trees. Dr. Kim Ogden, head of the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, is the principal investigator on this \$70 million, five-year project, which aims to grow and process guayule as a scalable alternative source of rubber for mass production. Describing part of the motivation for the research, Ogden said "There is a big risk, as well as supply chain problems, when you have all the natural rubber coming from one region of the world. The goal for Bridgestone and for the other tire companies is to find reliable, domestic sources of rubber." According to Ogden, the project also has climate goals. "We want to use less water, install irrigation systems to avoid flood irrigation, use less fertilizer and educate the growers." Funding for the project comes from the US Department of Agriculture and Bridgestone. Other partners on this project include Colorado River Indian Tribes, Colorado State University, regional growers, and OpenET, a public-private partnership that facilitates responsible water management.



Image: Julius Schlosburg, Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering

[UA News Story](#)

WATER JOBS

- UArizona [Associate Director/Specialist \(Water Resources Research Center\)](#)

Please visit [WRRC's website](#) for a complete listing of water jobs & opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Jun 10: Pima County Master Gardeners Sage Seminar: Planning & Planting Your Xeriscape Garden](#)

- **Jun 13:** [AHS Tucson Chapter Meeting: Featuring Two Winners from El Dia de Agua](#)
- **Jun 13–15:** [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council Public Meeting](#)
- **Jun 13–15:** [UCOWR/NIWR 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Jun 15:** [CAP Board Meeting: CAGR and Underground Storage Committee](#)
- **Jun 15:** [WaterReuse Arizona 2023 Scholarship – Application Deadline](#)
- **Jun 15–16:** [2023 Next Generation Water Summit](#)
- **Jun 16:** [US Water Prize 2023 – Nomination Deadline](#) **EXTENDED!**
- **Jun 16:** [WRRC Special Event: Brave the Wild River – A Reading by Author Melissa Sevigny, with Book Signing to Follow](#)
- **Jun 20:** [SCN Green Infrastructure Workgroup Meeting: Rainwater or stormwater? It's all onewater!](#)
- **Jun 20:** [Sonoran Institute Growing Water Smart Peer-to-Peer Panel Virtual Event](#)
- **Jun 21:** [Sonoran Institute Summer Solstice Party & Conservation Benefit](#)
- **Jun 21:** [AWRA Webinar: Protecting Drinking Water Sources Through Collaborative Planning and Management](#)
- **Jun 22:** [AHS Phoenix Chapter Meeting: Assured and Adequate Water Supply. Groundwater Flow Modeling](#)
- **Jun 28:** [The Conversation: Water and Sustainability - A Holistic View](#)
- **Jul 7:** [Diana Liverman Scholars Program – Application Deadline](#)
- **Jul 11–12:** [WRRC 2023 Annual Conference: What Can We Do? Solutions to Arizona's Water Challenges](#)
- **Jul 17–19:** [AWRA 2023 Summer Conference: Connecting Land & Water for Healthy Communities](#)
- **Jul 23–25:** [Arizona Water Reuse 2023 Symposium](#)
- **Aug 3–4:** [31st Annual Arizona Water Law Conference](#)
- **Aug 8-9:** [Arizona Association of Conservation Districts \(AACD\) 2023 Annual Conference](#)
- **Sep 12:** [AWRA 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference – Student Poster Deadline](#)
- **Sep 13:** [AHS Symposium Fieldtrip: Oak Creek Watershed Restoration](#)
- **Sep 13–16:** [Arizona Hydrological Society 35th Annual Symposium](#)
- **Sep 16:** [AHS Symposium Fieldtrip: Hoxworth Springs, Lake Mary, and Montezuma Well](#)
- **Oct 7:** [Urban Wildlife Conservation Day: Rio Reimagined Salt River Clean-Up](#)
- **Oct 21:** [19th Annual Research Insights in Semiarid Ecosystems \(RISE\) Symposium – Save the Date!](#)
- **Nov 6–8:** [AWRA 2023 Annual Water Resources Conference](#)
- **Nov 14–16:** [US Water Alliance One Water Summit 2023](#)

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Science Friday: Southwestern States Break the Dam on Water Stalemate

Science Friday radio host Ira Flatow interviewed WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal and Luke Runyon, managing editor and reporter for KUNC in Grand Junction, CO, to discuss what the proposed plan for Colorado River water cuts might mean for southwestern states. [Listen Here](#)

New Tool: Arizona Groundwater Explorer

The Arizona Groundwater Explorer, or AGEx, has just been released. AGEx allows users to explore groundwater levels, changes, and trends across Arizona using data from the combined USGS and ADWR databases in an intuitive, map-based portal. [More Info](#)

Women in Water Diplomacy Network Newsletter

The recent Women in Water Diplomacy Network newsletter highlights inclusivity, reflects on the UN Water Conference, and reports on the first half of 2023. It includes an article from WRRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal, titled “Inclusivity fostered by the Women in Water Diplomacy Network.” [Read Here](#)

Western Water Article on New Underground Mapping Technology

An article titled “High-Tech Mapping of Central Valley’s Underground Blazes Path to Drought Resilience” features a new underground mapping technology that reveals the best spots for storing surplus water in California’s Central Valley. The new maps are drawn from data on the composition of underlying rock and soil gathered by low-flying helicopters towing giant magnets. [Read Here](#)

Tucson Floodplain and Stormwater Management Workshop Recording

[Watch Here](#)

June 1, 2023 CAWCD Board Meeting Recap [Read Here](#)

OTHER NOTICES

Paul Brierley Appointed Director of AZ Dept. of Agriculture

Executive director of the Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture Paul Brierley was appointed director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture by Governor Katie Hobbs.

[More Info](#)

Diana Liverman Scholars Program

Join a cross-disciplinary cohort of undergraduate environmental scholars to deepen your communication skills through connection to place, community, and one another.

The Liverman Scholars Program is the first of its kind and investigates resilience in response to pressing environmental and social issues. The deadline to apply for the 2023–2024 academic year is July 7. [More Info](#)

Tucson Water is Seeking Comments on the One Water 2100 Draft Plan

Tucson Water released the draft One Water 2100 Plan for public review and comment today. The water resource plan is available at [TucsonOneWater.com](https://tucsononewater.com) where community members can view and submit comments until the public review period ends on July 21, 2023.

Do you have a story idea, water job announcement, or event to share?

[Contact us here](#)