

WEEKLY WAVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



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The Water Resources Research Center - a research unit of the [College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental 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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IN THIS ISSUE: Reflections, Groundwater Sustainability, Arizonans of the Year Awardees, APW, Staff Updates

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Reception to launch the North American section of the Women in Water Diplomacy Network. Image: Jennifer Pitt

Reflections: Repeating Some Themes

The arrival of a new year has caused me to look back over the past 20 years of my teaching, writing, and speaking on Arizona's water challenges. Luckily, there is a record of my reflections on these challenges that reveals repeated important themes. For my Spring Semester graduate course, Water Policy in Arizona and Semi-arid Regions, I ask the students first to read: (1) the [Compendium](#) of 75 columns that I contributed to the

WRRC's Arizona Water Resource newsletter from the time I joined the WRRC in early 2002 to late 2018 when the newsletter was discontinued; and (2) my [Reflections](#) essays, the successors to my newsletter columns, 38 of which have been published through the WRRC's [Weekly Wave](#).

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EVENTS



WRRC 2024
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

IMPLEMENTING
WATER
SOLUTIONS
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS

MARCH 12–13
University of Arizona
Student Union Grand Ballroom

CALL FOR STUDENT POSTER ABSTRACTS

Extended Deadline - **January 26!**

All students in Arizona participating in water research, management, or community engagement projects in the Southwest region are encouraged to apply!

[More info ▶](#)

Upcoming WRRC Events

Feb 16: WRRC Annual Chocolate Fest – Save the Date!

March 12–13: [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference: Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships](#)

Upcoming WRRC Co-sponsored Events

Jan 30: [Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture \(Wine, Women & Water Reception\) – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Jan 31: [Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture Annual Meeting – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Feb 6: [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Indigenous Ingenuity: A Path Forward – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Mar 12: [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Place Based Learning and Cultural Fire Practice in California – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

Apr 2: [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: \[Presentation title TBD\] – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

May 7: [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Eleltek Waali \(I'm Reading Country\) – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)

NEWS

WRRC Grad Student Highlighted in Water Resources Magazine

Simone A. Williams is a WRRC graduate research associate and Director Sharon B. Megdal chairs her dissertation committee. Williams' research was recently featured in the November/December 2023 issue of *Water Resources IMPACT*, a digital magazine that highlights the achievements of water management professionals. The American Water Resources Association curates this bi-monthly publication. The featured article is titled "Data-Driven Sustainability: Closing Groundwater Data Gaps in the Arid Southwest." Williams' experience in this field — stemming from her dissertation research, in which she developed a comprehensive groundwater quality dataset — led her to the analysis she provides in the article. She strongly recommends using integrated water resources management (IWRM) to improve groundwater data accessibility and availability shortcomings. Williams explains how limited data sharing across stakeholders in the Southwest, among other factors, has hindered our understanding of groundwater trends, movement, and quality. She provides analysis of short-, medium-, and long-term solutions for improving groundwater data. Real examples from data improvement efforts in the Southwest showcase these solutions, including enhanced collaboration, improving monitoring networks, and policy integration.



Image: Simone A. Williams. Groundwater Data Availability and Accessibility Solutions (Figure 4 from the featured article).

[Read the Article](#) [Water Resources IMPACT](#)

Tribal Water Leaders Named 2023 Arizonans of the Year

Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Roe Lewis and Colorado River Indian Tribes Chairwoman Amelia Flores were both recently named Arizonans of the Year by *The Arizona Republic*. Governor Lewis and Chairwoman Flores are influential voices in water policy discussions in Arizona and across the Colorado River basin and serve as stewards for water resources that their communities have relied on for thousands of years. This past year, Lewis joined federal and state water officials to announce a historic \$233 million deal to conserve water in Lake Mead and fund a reclaimed water pipeline. He has also spent time in Washington, DC, talking with officials and testifying before Congress. He hosted Vice President Kamala Harris during her visit to the Gila River Indian Community. Meanwhile, Flores pushed for federal legislation that would allow the Colorado River Indian Tribes to lease some of their water to others in Arizona. She has also been an active participant in the Governor's Water Policy Council. Additionally, the two Tribal leaders have been speaking at conferences and meeting with key stakeholders in Washington, DC, and throughout the Southwest. Governor Lewis and Chairwoman Flores are the first two Indigenous people in the award's 20-year history to be recognized as "Arizonans of the Year."



[Read the Article](#)

Arizona Water Festival Expansion: First Sunnyside Water Festivals

Arizona Project WET (APW), in conjunction with Tucson Water, is happy to have hosted the first annual Sunnyside School District Water Festival series. On December 4, 8, and 15, 2023, the Sunnyside Water Festivals brought over a thousand fourth-grade students from thirteen elementary schools across the district to learn about becoming wise water users. Students rotated through four stations, where they participated in engaging and fun lessons about the local watershed, the water cycle, the groundwater system, and water conservation. Each station was run by volunteers from Tucson Water, Pima County Master Naturalists, Hydrocats, AmeriCorps, and APW. This expansion of the water festival program with Sunnyside is a vital part of APW's plan to educate and engage students across the state about the importance of water and water conservation in Arizona. The Sunnyside Water Festivals ended 2023 on a high note as APW worked in collaboration with Tucson Water and Sunnyside School District for months to make the water festival a reality. The Arizona Project Wet team looks forward to 2024 as they bring water festivals to more school districts around the state of Arizona.



Image: Clayton B. Lyon

WRRC Bids Farewell to Two Staff Members

At the end of the 2023 fall semester, we said goodbye to two members of our team. We bid a bittersweet farewell to Program Manager Michael Seronde, who joined the WRRC in October 2019 upon graduating from UArizona with a master's degree in Public Policy. Seronde oversaw countless WRRC projects and events, helped plan the WRRC's annual conference, administrated the 104(b) and 104(g) research grant programs, and supported the rest of the team wherever necessary. Seronde accepted a new position with an energy consulting firm, and while we are very sad to see him go, we wish him all the best with his new job!



Last month, we also said goodbye to Martin Picazzo, who served as our Systems Administrator and handled most of our IT needs. Picazzo joined the WRRC in 2011 as a Student Systems Administrator. Upon graduating, he worked in a similar capacity for UArizona's Tucson Agricultural Centers and later joined the College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences (CALES) team. In 2022, he returned to the WRRC as a Systems Administrator under CALES. Picazzo recently accepted a position at RTX Corporation. We wish him well in his new job. The WRRC would like to thank both Michael and Martin for their hard work and dedication to the WRRC over the years.



- ADWR [Multiple Positions](#)
- AZGFD [Water Resources Manager](#)
- North Carolina State University (Sea Grant, Space Grant, & WRRRI) [Communications Director](#)
- North Carolina State University (Sea Grant) [Research and Program Coordinator](#)
- University of Minnesota [Extension Educator – Irrigation](#)
- University of Minnesota [Extension Educator – Agronomy and Water Resources](#)

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

NOTICES, PUBLICATIONS, and MEDIA

WRRC Student Article in Water Resources IMPACT

WRRC Graduate Research Associate Simone Williams' article, "Data-Driven Sustainability: Closing Groundwater Data Gaps in the Arid Southwest," was featured in *Water Resources IMPACT* magazine. [Read the Article](#)

Call for Topical Sessions: AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA), Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR), and National Institutes of Water Resources (NIWR) are pleased to invite you to submit your proposals for topical sessions, due February 25, for their joint 60th anniversary conference, to be held September 30 through October 2, 2024. [Submit a Proposal](#) or click on this link for [More Info](#).

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Jan 8:** [NGWA Conference: Groundwater in the PFAS Era: Stressors, Protection, & Compliance – Abstract Submission Deadline](#)
- **Jan 9:** [Desert Ag Research Symposium on Soil Health](#)
- **Jan 12:** [2024 Bouwer Intern Scholarship – Application Deadline](#)
- **Jan 18:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: The Changing Hydroclimate of Southern Arizona – Dr. Michael A. Crimmins](#)
- **Jan 22–24:** [Growing Water Smart: Integrated Water and Land Use Planning Workshop](#)
- **Jan 26:** [WRRC 2023 Annual Conference – Student Poster Abstract Deadline](#)
EXTENDED!
- **Jan 30:** [Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture \(Wine, Women & Water Reception\) – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Jan 31:** [Arizona Association of Women in Water & Agriculture Annual Meeting – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Jan 31:** [3rd International Groundwater-Agriculture Conference: Toward Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture - Linking Science and Policy – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Jan 31:** [Pete McBride: Into the Grand Canyon, Between River and Rim](#)
- **Feb 4–7:** [NIWR 2024 Annual Meeting](#)
- **Feb 6:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Indigenous Ingenuity: A Path Forward – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Feb 11–13:** [AWWA/WEF Young Professionals Summit](#)
- **Feb 16:** [WRRC Annual Chocolate Fest – Save the Date!](#)
- **Feb 22:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: What Goes on Inside the Clouds? – Dr. Sylvia Sullivan](#)

- **Feb 22–23:** [2024 Family Farm Alliance Annual Conference – Resilience in Every Drop: Safeguarding America’s Food Security](#)
- **Feb 25:** [AWRA/UCOWR/NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference –Topical Session Deadline](#)
- **Feb 26–27:** [Environmental Professionals of Arizona \(EPAZ\) Conference](#)
- **Feb 26–28:** [Water Resources Management & Sustainability: Solutions for Arid Regions 2nd International Conference](#)
- **Feb 27–29:** [2024 Southwest Adaptation Forum – Save the Date](#)
- **Feb 28–Mar 1:** [MSSC 2024 Annual Salinity Summit](#)
- **Mar 5–7:** [RiversEdge West 2024 Conference – Restoration for the Future: Promoting Resilience in Our Rivers and Communities](#)
- **Mar 10–16:** [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)
- **Mar 11–14:** [AWWA WaterReuse 2024 Symposium](#)
- **Mar 12:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Place Based Learning and Cultural Fire Practice in California – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **March 12–13:** [WRRC 2024 Annual Conference: Implementing Water Solutions Through Partnerships](#)
- **March 12–13:** [A Meeting of Sacred Waters: A Global Gathering of Indigenous Voices](#)
- **Mar 14:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: The Influence of a Variable and Changing Climate on Upper Gila River Streamflow – Dr. Connie Woodhouse](#)
- **Mar 25–27:** [AWRA 2024 Geospatial Water Technology Conference: Data to Decisions: Managing & Modeling Water Challenges](#)
- **Apr 2:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: \[Presentation title TBD\] – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Apr 3–6:** [BSMAR18](#)
- **Apr 8–10:** [AWRA 2024 Spring Conference: Water Risk & Resilience: Research and Sustainable Solutions](#)
- **Apr 16–17:** [NGWA Conference: Groundwater in the PFAS Era: Stressors, Protection, & Compliance](#)
- **Apr 18:** [Spring 2024 Tumamoc Talk: The Science and Wonder of Arizona Lighting – Ron Holle](#)
- **Apr 23–25:** [97th Annual AZ Water Conference & Exhibition Annual AZ Water Conference & Exhibition](#)
- **May 7:** [NVIS Spring 2024 Seminar: Eilettek Waali \(I'm Reading Country\) – Co-sponsored by the WRRC](#)
- **Jun 10–13:** [AWWA 2024 Annual Conference & Expo \(ACE24\): Transforming Our Water Future](#)
- **Jun 17–20:** [3rd International Groundwater-Agriculture Conference: Toward Sustainable Groundwater in Agriculture - Linking Science and Policy](#)
- **Jul 28–30:** [2024 Arizona Water Reuse Symposium](#)
- **Sep 30–Oct 2:** [AWRA/UCOWR/NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference](#)

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

[Contact us here](#)