

# WEEKLY WAVE



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
**WATER RESOURCES  
RESEARCH CENTER**

**March 27, 2020 / Volume 8, Issue 12**

The Water Resource 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

## WRRC Office Update

Although the WRRC building will be closed to the public until further notice, our staff continue to work and engage as much as possible. You can reach us via email as listed on our [Directory](#). We wish you all the best - Stay safe and healthy!

UArizona Cooperative Extension [COVID-19 info page](#)

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In this issue: [Conference Videos](#) / [Utilities](#) / [APW](#) / [Working Remotely](#)



**How Might Coronavirus Affect Arizona's Water?**

At the WRRC, we have been fielding questions related to the safety of Arizona's water supply during coronavirus - specifically, is drinking water safe? To date, coronavirus has not been reported in municipal water supplies anywhere in the U.S. This is not surprising, given that modern drinking water treatment is specifically designed to inactivate viruses. Water municipalities, including Tucson Water, have been releasing information to the public on the safety of their water supplies. For a sampling, here is information from [Tucson](#) , [Philadelphia](#) , and [Boston](#) . Similarly, there have not been any reports of the novel coronavirus in groundwater, nor has the virus been shown to spread through treated wastewater. We do stress, however, that research into all of these areas is ongoing, and the WRRC will use the Weekly Wave to keep you updated.

We would also like to advise our readers to rely on reputable sources of information on coronavirus in water, as a few disreputable websites are already reporting erroneous information. Some websites of use to you would be the [Water Environment Federation](#) and the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) .

All of us at the WRRC send our best wishes to our Weekly Wave readers, and hope that you are all safe and healthy.

### [WRRC: COVID-19 and Water](#)

## WRRC EVENTS

### **Brown Bag Webinar Only - Learning from the Colorado River Conversations**

**April 1, 2020 / 12:00pm to 1:15pm**

**Speakers:** Katharine Jacobs , *Director, Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions and Professor, Environmental Science, University of Arizona;*  
Amy McCoy , *Partner, Martin & McCoy*

**Location:** Via Webinar

Over the past few years, the UA Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions has hosted a series of events aimed at broadening the conversation about managing the Colorado River. These included an assessment of interdisciplinary science needs, recognizing the complexity of river management issues; a conference soliciting input from water managers on the science agenda developed in the first event; and a conference organized around building relationships among entities and individuals with different perspectives on river management priorities. In addition, CCASS hosted a series of scenario planning workshops focused on exploring extreme "black swan" events. These conversations included participants from all seven basin states and Mexico, as well as tribal and environmental interests, NGOs, and federal agencies.

[More Info](#)  
[Webinar Registration](#)



### **Brown Bag Webinar Only - Human- Environment Dynamics in the Sonoran Desert and Ae. aegypti,**



# the Vector of Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya



April 8, 2020 / 12:00pm to 1:15pm

**Speakers:** Kacey Ernst, Associate Professor and Program Director of Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Arizona

**Location:** Via Webinar

*Aedes aegypti* is an invasive mosquito that has become established throughout the urban landscapes in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. A native of the tropics, the urban landscape facilitates its survival in the arid desert region. We conducted field collections and analyzed mosquito surveillance data to better understand the primary anthropogenic drivers of its abundance in southern Arizona and northern Mexico. Our results will provide a basis for a discussion on water use in the desert environment, how extreme heat mitigation plans may result in higher mosquito abundance, and implications for household and community water management practices.

[More Info](#)  
[Webinar Registration](#)



## Upcoming Brown Bag Webinars

- **April 16** - Student Research on Water Resource Science Monitoring and Methods
- **April 29** - Marie Pearthree, Mike McGuire, Book: Tucson Water Turnaround: Crisis to Success

## WRRRC NEWS

### Past WRRRC Annual Conference Presentations Available Online

Our 2020 conference has been postponed, but don't let that stop you from heading to our website to check out the presentations from our previous annual conferences. The agendas for conferences held from 2015 to 2019 have links to videos and PowerPoint presentations. These conferences covered topics like scarcity, challenges, and community-based solutions; the business of water; Indigenous perspectives; and more.



Click on the links below to access the agendas.

[Conference 2019](#)  
[Conference 2018](#)  
[Conference 2017](#)  
[Conference 2016](#)

## Water Utilities Prepare for Secure Operations

With local, state, and federal governments taking unprecedented actions in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, non-mission-critical employees are being asked to stay away from their places of work, working from home when possible. Water and wastewater utilities, however, must continue to have on-site operators to perform high-priority functions. As the pandemic progresses, it is natural to worry about the security of our vital water services. Tucson Water reassures its customers that its operational plan includes actions that make certain it has enough staff, including backup staff, to do what needs to be done, and other water utilities are putting out similar messages. The Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant in San Diego County has gone a step further. For the next three weeks, mission-critical employees will shelter in place, performing their duties without leaving the facility. As reported by San Diego and Los Angeles newspapers, these volunteers "will work 12-hour shifts, sleep in rented recreational vehicles in the parking lot, and be resupplied with fresh food left for them at the plant's gate. They will be furnished with washers and dryers to do their own laundry, and the desalination plant's kitchen and cafeteria are available to them." Like other facilities, they will be reassessing the situation as it develops.



[Los Angeles Times](#)  
[San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

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## Soap and Water Science for Home Learning Fun



Mandatory seclusion, forced isolation, social distancing, all part of our current reality. And, about now, a fast and furious flurry of online digital resources are coming at you. The Arizona Project

WET team is sending you precisely the right home learning resource for the time! The Soap and Water Science module has students (your children) learning how soap works through a video and identifying "high touch" areas in your home, the areas that we're all trying to keep disinfected. Maybe your kids can take on a new daily chore! This module can be found at [www.discoverwater.org](http://www.discoverwater.org). Developed by the Project WET Foundation, the free online interactive Discover Water portal enables students to explore water topics from ocean science to water conservation. For students who might be missing out on critical water education in their science class during these weeks, the Water Cycle module brings the parts of the cycle and scientists who study them to life! Check it out and let us know what you think!



[APW](#)  
[Discover Water](#)

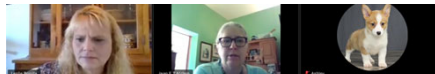
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## Captains log, day 10 of working remotely...

Like many around the world, WRRRC staff have been working



from home to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. While sheltering-in-place and practicing social distancing takes a toll on our social and work lives, the positive outcomes extend beyond spending quality time with our dogs. Virtual platforms have stepped up to fill the void left by the total shutdown of in-person meetings, conferences, and events. Not only is video-conferencing the new norm, but many events, from informative webinars to local band performances, are being streamed for public enrichment. In addition to the WRRC Brown Bag seminars, which are always available for free on our website, the American Water Works Association has a series of webinars on a range of water topics, many of which are also free. Several renowned museums have also made it possible to enjoy their collections virtually. CBS has put together an excellent list of virtual tours available to help get us through this strange time. This may your only opportunity to view the Mona Lisa without a horde of other museum-goers. Silver lining?



[WRRC Webinars](#)  
[AWWA Webinars](#)  
[CBS Virtual Tour Guide](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Awards and Scholarships - AWRA](#)
- [February 24-June 6 \(Various Dates\): ADWR 5th Management Plans Working Groups - Monday, April 6 meeting CANCELED](#)
- [March 31: Webinar to Initiate the Review of the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines](#)
- [March 31: Santa Cruz Watershed Collaborative Spring Forum - POSTPONED](#)
- [April 1: Babbitt Center for Land Water Policy - Dissertation Fellowship Program - Applications Due](#)
- [April 1-3: BSMAR 17 Symposium - POSTPONED: New Dates Oct. 7-9](#)
- [April 10: UCOWR/NIWR 2020 Annual Conference - Early Bird Registration Ends](#)
- [April 20: Water International - New Call for Early-Career Professionals - Abstract Submission Deadline](#)
- [April 27-28: 2020 National Water Policy Fly-In \(Water Week 2020\) - CANCELED: April 2-27 - April 26th - May 2nd Water Week Continues as a Virtual Event](#)
- [May 11-12: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev International Water Summit - Registration Open - POSTPONED: Until Further Notice](#)
- [May 14-15: Western Water Law Conference San Diego](#)
- [May 18: AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference, Nov. 9-12 - Abstracts Due](#)
- [June 1: Central Arizona Project Award for Water Research - Abstracts Due](#)
- [June 4-5: Law Seminars International Conference - Tribal Water in the Southwest](#)
- [June 14-17: ACE20 Future So Bright - Registration Open](#)

Visit Our Website