

# WEEKLY WAVE



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER



October 4, 2024 / Volume 12, Issue 26

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.](#)

[WRRC Office Update](#)

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2024 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona. Find out [more](#).

**IN THIS ISSUE:** AWRA Fellow Award, Weekly Wave Update, Verde River, APW, Imagine A Day Without Water

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## WRRC Director Named AWRA Fellow

*Image: WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal and Associate Director Jamie McEvoy at the AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference*

WRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal was honored with an AWRA Member Fellow Award at the AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference, held September 30 through October 2, 2024, in St. Louis, Missouri. Megdal received the award, which recognizes individuals for their “eminent record in some branch of water resources science and technology,” at the conference awards luncheon. The conference, *Celebrating the Past and Planning for the Future of Water*, marked 60 years since President Lyndon Johnson signed the 1964 Water Resources Research Act, authorizing Water Resources Research Institutes across the country, including the WRRC. That same year saw the formation of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and the Universities Council on Water Resources (UCOWR). At the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reception the evening before receiving her award, Megdal delivered [remarks](#) on behalf of the National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR). She closed the reception program with her remarks and a toast to the past and future impacts made by AWRA, UCOWR, and NIWR. She noted: “I see lots of energy, optimism, and can-do attitude at all three associations. I am optimistic that we are well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to identifying solutions to our local, regional, and global water challenges.”

[Read Megdal's Remarks](#)

## 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

WRRC 2025 Annual Conference

**May 20–21**

**SHARED BORDERS  
SHARED WATERS**

*Working Together in Times of Scarcity*

## EVENTS

**WRRC Water Webinar: Meaningful Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on Inland Waters in Australia – *Lessons Learned from Australian Government Policy Developers and How They Are Learning to Work on Genuine Efforts to Engage Effectively***

**Date & Time**

USA: Wednesday, October 16, 2024; 3:30–4:45 pm Arizona/MST

Australia: Thursday, October 17, 2024; 9:30–10:45 am AEDT

**Location:** [Webinar Only](#)

**Speakers:**

Sheryl Hedges, *Branch Head, Australian Government  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and  
Water*

Brandon Etto, *Director, First Nations Engagement,  
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and  
Water*



In this WRRRC Water Webinar, presenters will discuss how the effects of colonization have long-lasting and inter-generational impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their access to inland waters. Empowering First Nations peoples to access, manage, and own water is crucial for ensuring their well-being and self-determination. The presentation will also discuss how meaningful engagement is critical for shaping effective water management policies and will draw on lessons learned from Australian Government policy developers, who are increasingly recognizing the need for genuine, culturally informed engagement. Historically, top-down approaches have failed to capture the diverse voices and needs of First Nations communities, resulting in gaps in water allocation and resource management. However, recent policy shifts demonstrate a growing commitment to integrating Indigenous knowledge, respecting community protocols, and prioritizing long-term partnerships. Successful efforts have centered on mutual respect, transparency, and shared decision-making, allowing for more sustainable and equitable water management practices. The development of the Aboriginal Water Entitlement program, for example, highlights the importance of addressing both historical grievances and current needs through trust-building and capacity development. The lessons underscore that while government frameworks are improving, there is still a need for continuous learning, listening, and adapting policy to suit the unique governance structures, values, and knowledge systems of Indigenous communities.

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

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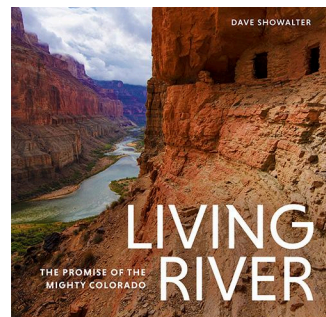
## WRRRC Special Event: Living River: The Promise of the Mighty Colorado

### Author Talk and Book Signing

**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024

**Time:** 3:00–4:30 pm Arizona Time

**Location:** [Hybrid Event: In-Person Attendance is Limited  
\(please register in advance\): 350 N. Campbell Ave.,  
Tucson AZ](#)



#### **Speaker:**

Dave Showalter, *Author and Photographer of Living River:  
The Promise of the Mighty Colorado*



Join the WRRRC and conservation photographer Dave Showalter for a unique in-person event — an epic visual journey through the vast Colorado River watershed. Showalter's new book, *Living River: The Promise of the Mighty Colorado* from [Braided River](#), paints a galvanizing picture of the living Colorado River and the challenges it faces, and will inspire people of all walks of life to cherish and protect the life, beauty, and resilience of this dynamic life force. Featuring stunning photography and powerful essays, *Living River* captures

brehtaking landscapes rich with wildlife from upper Colorado's tributary Fraser River to the southwestern Gila and San Pedro Rivers. Showalter works throughout the ecosystems of the Intermountain West and has published two other books, *Sage Spirit: The American West at a Crossroads* (Braided River) and *Prairie Thunder: The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains* (Skyline Press). With *Living River* and conservation story-telling, he seeks to take readers on a journey to see themselves as part of nature and the community of living things, engendering empathy, caring, and love of the natural world—the genesis of meaningful conservation.

**Copies of Showalter's *Living River* book will be available for purchase during the event.** *Living River* is published by Braided River, a literary and conservation nonprofit, and an imprint of Mountaineers Books.

- [LIMITED In-Person Registration](#)
- [Zoom Registration](#)
- [Living River](#)
- [More Info](#)

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## Upcoming WRRRC Events

- Nov 12: [WRRRC Water Webinar: Celebrating 60 Years of the WRRRC](#)
- May 20–21, 2025: [WRRRC 2025 Annual Conference: Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity](#)

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## Other Events

- Oct 9: [SNRE Seminar: Groundwater Along the US-MX Border: Assessment and Opportunities for Binational Management; 3:00–4:00 pm MST – Speaker: Sharon B. Megdal](#)

# NEWS

## The Weekly Wave is Moving to a New Platform!

The *Weekly Wave* is getting a makeover! This month, we are transitioning to Trellis, the University of Arizona's Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system, to deliver our weekly e-news digest. The new and refreshed format should hit inboxes on October 18. This updated delivery system will offer the same content in a sleeker, more condensed layout for easier reading. If you are already subscribed, no action is needed — we will automatically transfer your subscription. Please bear with us as we make this transition and stay tuned to see the *Weekly Wave*'s new look!

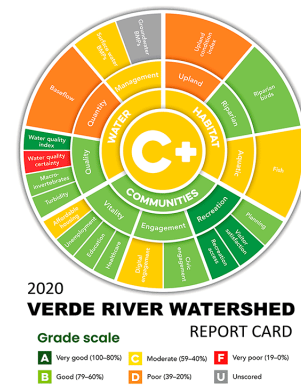


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## Verde River Watershed Conference Highlights Partnerships

Last week, WRRRC Associate Director Jamie McEvoy had the opportunity to attend the State of the Verde Watershed Conference in Camp Verde, AZ. The conference is organized by the Friends of the Verde River every two years. The Verde River is one of two Wild and Scenic Rivers in Arizona, a rare perennial waterway, and an important

tributary to the Salt River. Data from the US Geological Survey shows that flow in the Verde River has been declining since the 1990s. The conference highlighted partnerships and underscored their importance for achieving conservation goals. Tanya Lewis, Chairwoman of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, delivered an opening keynote via video, as she was traveling to Washington DC to [testify](#) in support of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act. Panel discussions focused on upland management, as well as riparian and aquatic management. Tracy Stephens with Friends of the Verde River gave an overview of the [Verde River Watershed Report Card](#), which provides an assessment of watershed health. Several talks addressed stormwater management and green infrastructure plans to enhance streamflow in the Verde River, such as the [2023 Northern Arizona Council of Governments' plan](#). Bruce Babbitt, the 16<sup>th</sup> Governor of Arizona and former Secretary of the Interior, gave a notable keynote address that discussed key challenges in the Upper, Middle, and Lower Verde Watersheds.



- [Streamflow Enhancement Plan](#)
- [Tanya Lewis Testimony](#)
- [Watershed Report Card](#)

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## APW Kicks Off With Double the Festival, Double the Fun!

Fall has officially kicked off—and along with it, so has the 2024/25 Arizona Project WET Water Festival season! The team had a busy summer brainstorming ways to make this season's festivals more memorable and exciting for 4<sup>th</sup> graders around the state. At the first fall festival on September 24, all three team hubs (Tucson, Phoenix, and Northern Arizona) joined forces to debut refreshed materials and a brand new, more interactive groundwater activity. Two days after the Flagstaff festival, the Tucson and Phoenix teams rolled into Payson for "round two." Both festivals were a roaring success, thanks to enthusiastic sponsors and volunteer educators. While the cooler weather in Northern Arizona was a welcome treat, the team was especially delighted to see their summer of hard work come to fruition. Seeing the kids' eagerness and energy for exploration was contagious! APW is looking forward to many more fun festivals throughout the year. Feel free to join in on the excitement at a water festival near you. Explore APW's [Calendar of Events](#).



*Image: Stasi Silvares. Students investigate the space between earth materials in a new groundwater model.*

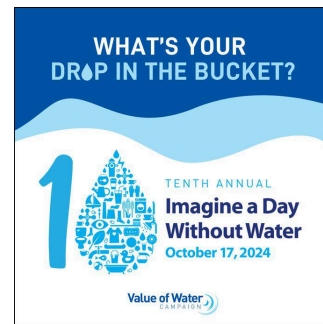
## [APW Calendar of Events](#)

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## Imagine a Day Without Water Turns 10!

October 17, 2024, will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual [Imagine a Day Without Water](#), a national day of action organized by the US Water Alliance to highlight the importance of water in our daily lives and support access to clean water for all. Each year, thousands of individuals, utilities, schools, businesses, and communities come together and find

creative and engaging ways to communicate the importance of safe, reliable, and affordable water services. Last year's campaign united participants across the nation and the globe to reach millions on social media, and people got involved in creative ways including blog posts, farmer's market booths, art contests, facility tours, educational videos, and more. In recognition of the event's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the US Water Alliance has provided a resources page with ten ways for participants to get engaged. For this milestone year, the campaign is centered around a thematic question: What's Your Drop in the Bucket? Chime in by tagging @TheValueOfWater on social media and using the hashtags #ImagineADayWithoutWater and #MyDropInTheBucket for a chance to be featured on official "Imagine a Day Without Water" channels.



- [Imagine a Day Without Water](#)
- [10 Ways to Get Involved](#)
- [2023 Highlights](#)

**CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
**WRRC 2024 PHOTO CONTEST**  
**WATER IN ARIZONA**

**SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS!**

## WATER JOBS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

### WRRC Open Positions

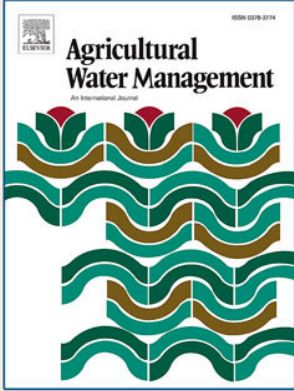
- [AmeriCorps Members](#)
- [Graduate Research Assistant](#)

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

## WATER NEWS

- [ADWR Holds Informational Meeting in Willcox on Deteriorating Groundwater Conditions in the Region](#)
- [New Indigenous Resilience Center \(IRes\) Newsletter](#)
- [Regents' Grant: New Smart Tree Watering Research](#)
- [Submissions Open for 5-Year Desalination Prize](#)
- [US Water Alliance Toolkit — Messaging for Results: Communicating Critical Water Issues](#)
- [AWRA 2025 Spring Conference Call for Abstracts](#)

- [A Living River Report for the Santa Cruz River — Downtown Tucson to Marana, 2024](#)
- [“Water is Life” Webinar Recording from August 2024 Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [PEER2PEER Seminar Series Recording: Transboundary Water Governance and the Colorado River](#)
- [New EPA Water Quality Mapping Tool](#)
- [Santa Cruz River Close to Becoming Urban Wildlife Refuge](#)



## CALL FOR PAPERS

Water Scarcity Solutions for  
Irrigated Agriculture in the  
Warming Western U.S.

**Extended to Nov. 1, 2024**

**Submission Info**

## CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Oct 4:** [SRP Commercial, Industrial and Institutional \(CII\) Water Efficiency Assessment Training – Registration Deadline](#)
- **Oct 5:** [Rio Vista Restoration Planting Workshop](#)
- **Oct 6:** [U of A Campus Sustainability Fund Fall 2024 Mini Grants – Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Oct 8:** [AHS Tucson Chapter Meeting: Managed Aquifer Recharge in Arizona—Experiences and Lessons Learned](#)
- **Oct 9:** [SNRE Seminar: Groundwater Along the US-MX Border: Assessment and Opportunities for Binational Management; 3:00–4:00 pm MST – Speaker: Sharon B. Megdal](#)
- **Oct 10:** [Arizona Riparian Council Speaker Series: A Portrait of Changing Community Composition in Urban Wetlands of the Salt River](#)
- **Oct 11:** [2025 UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference – Special Session Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Oct 14:** [AWRA 2025 Spring Conference: Development Risks & Challenges in Changing Climate Conditions – Abstract Deadline](#)
- **Oct 16:** [WRRC Water Webinar: Meaningful Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on Inland Waters in Australia; 3:30–4:45 pm MST](#)
- **Oct 17:** [Imagine a Day Without Water](#)
- **Oct 18:** [TEDxUofA: Desert Genius](#)
- **Oct 18:** [ABWC 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual H2Open Tommy Caywood Memorial Golf Tournament](#)
- **Oct 21:** [ASU Flow 2024: A Water Year Event for Researchers and Practitioners](#)
- **Oct 21:** [SRP Commercial, Industrial and Institutional \(CII\) Water Efficiency Assessment Training](#)
- **Oct 28:** [SRP Commercial, Industrial and Institutional \(CII\) Water Efficiency Assessment Training](#)
- **Oct 31:** [WRRC Special Event: Living River: The Promise of the Mighty Colorado; 3–4:30 pm MST](#)

- **Oct 31:** [IRes SACNAS Panel: Indigenous Research Methodologies in Community-Based Food, Energy, and Water Projects in Indigenous Communities](#)

### [More Calendar Announcements](#)

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

[Contact us here](#)

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