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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**WATER RESOURCES
RESEARCH CENTER**



October 11, 2024 / Volume 12, Issue 27

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 60th anniversary of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona. Find out [more](#).

IN THIS ISSUE: 60th Joint Conference Recap, WRRC Reauthorization, Jennifer McIntosh, Photo Contest

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WRRC Participates in Joint

AWRA, UCOWR, NIWR Conference

Last week, WRRRC Director Sharon B. Megdal and Associate Director Jamie McEvoy participated in several events at the AWRA, UCOWR, and NIWR 60th Anniversary Joint Water Resources Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Megdal was on a panel titled “Groundwater Management, Science and Policy in the Western US.” Her comments highlighted how Arizona’s establishment of Active Management Areas in 1980 to regulate groundwater in the “sun corridor” provided lessons for groundwater management in other regions, including California’s 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. She also discussed her involvement in the Governor’s Water Policy Council, which published a report in January 2024. Other panelists provided insights on groundwater management from California (Helen Dahlke), Colorado (Craig Cotton and Ryan Smith), New Mexico (Robert Sabie), and Texas (Lucas Gregory). Karen Schlatter, Interim Director for the Colorado Water Center, moderated the panel. Meanwhile, McEvoy presented her research on Ecological Drought in a session titled “Drought Monitoring and Modeling” and participated in meetings of the Western Water Network, which has a newly funded Western Extension/Education and Research Activity (WERA) under the auspices of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. As mentioned in [last week’s Weekly Wave](#), Megdal was honored with an AWRA Member Fellow Award and delivered remarks on behalf of the National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) as part of the 60th anniversary celebration.

Image: Jamie McEvoy. "Groundwater Management, Science and Policy in the Western US" Panelists

- [2021 Arroyo: Arizona Groundwater Management – Past, Present and Future](#)
- [Governor’s Water Policy Council Report](#)
- [Ecological Drought Vulnerability Framework Paper](#)
- [Western Water Network](#)

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAVE
the
DATE

WRRRC 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 WRRC 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](#)

Worldly Women Collective: Women Leading the Future of Water – WRRC Co-sponsored Event

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Time: 5:30–7:30 pm Arizona Time

Location: University of Arizona's Scottsdale Center
7135 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Join us for a dynamic panel discussion on the crucial role of women in water management, sustainability, and innovation—

WORLDLY Women COLLECTIVE
A program of GLOBALTIES Arizona

WOMEN LEADING THE FUTURE OF WATER
Innovation, Sustainability & Global Impact
Wednesday, October 30, 5:30-7:30 pm
University of Arizona's Scottsdale Center | 7135 East Camelback Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Featured Panelists of Local Discussion

- Devashree Lee-Gallegos**
Co-Chair of the Indigenous Women's Leadership Network
- Dr. Sheryl Hedges**
Branch Head, Australian Government Research Center WRRC
- Leslie Hedges**
Associate General Manager and Chief Water Stewardship & Science Executive of Salt River Project

Event Moderator
Natalie DeRoock
Chief Policy Information Officer for Tucson Water

Presented By: ASPE
Supporting Sponsors: ASPE, WRI, WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

highlighting their impact and leadership in shaping a sustainable future locally and globally.

Global Ties Arizona's Worldly Women Collective, in partnership with the University of Arizona Scottsdale Center, invites interested women to a powerful panel discussion featuring leaders in water management, conservation, and sustainability. These remarkable panelists will share their insights and experiences, highlighting the vital role women play in this essential sector—both locally and globally. Their valuable perspectives will underscore the challenges and opportunities within the water sector.

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

WRRC 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](#)

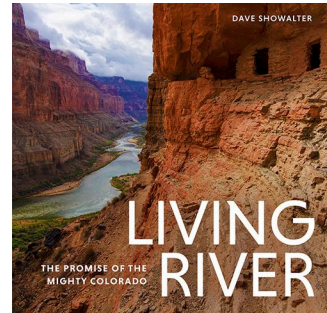
Speaker:

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

Join the WRRC 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 breathtaking 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](#)
-



Upcoming WRRRC Events

- Nov 12: [WRRRC Water Webinar: Celebrating 60 Years of the WRRRC; 12:00–1:15pm](#)
- May 20–21, 2025: [WRRRC 2025 Annual Conference: Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity](#)

Co-sponsored Events

- Nov 12: [Udall Center PFAS Symposium: Tackling PFAS for a Sustainable Future; 3:00–6:00 pm](#)

NEWS

University Reauthorizes the WRRRC

In September, the University of Arizona officially reauthorized the WRRRC for the seven-year period through Fiscal Year 2032. To continue operating, U of A units must undergo periodic reviews; the previous review was carried out in 2018. The WRRRC is also reviewed periodically by the US Geological Survey (USGS) as one of the 54 federally authorized Water Resources Research Institutes pursuant to the Water Resources Research Act of 1964 as amended. The WRRRC provided detailed documentation of efforts and accomplishments to USGS for their recent review and, in March, received an "outstanding" rating. Based on the comprehensive documentation from the in-depth federal review, the U of A administration waived its usual extensive reauthorization review process. The reauthorization letter from Peter W. Reiners, Interim Associate Vice President, Research Centers & Institutes, Research, Innovation, and Impact, dated September 27, stated that it is clear, "the Water Resources Research Center (WRRRC) plays an important role at the University and in our communities, has a robust administrative structure and function, and has strong strategic and resource plans in place to continue its positive impacts."



Image: Wikimedia Commons

[Water Resources Research Act Program](#)

Jennifer McIntosh Named Inaugural Meixner Endowed Professor

The University of Arizona College of Science has selected Jennifer McIntosh as the inaugural Dr. Thomas Meixner Endowed Professor in Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences. Meixner, who was tragically shot and killed on campus on October 5, 2022, was a renowned hydrologist, beloved professor, and former head of the Department of Hydrology and Atmospheric Sciences (HAS). The endowed professorship was established as a tribute to Meixner and his legacy of research and mentorship. Jennifer McIntosh is a U of A professor of geosciences, associate head of HAS, and a University Distinguished Scholar. Meixner recruited her to the U of A in 2006 and mentored her. They established a joint hydrochemistry lab, taught classes together, and collaborated on watershed biogeochemistry research. Meixner's wife, Kathleen, supported this selection, saying "Tom highly respected Dr. McIntosh as a colleague, fellow



teacher, and friend. Her impact on the field of hydrogeochemistry is profound, and we hope that this professorship will continue to support her outstanding work and contributions to her field and community." College of Science Dean Carmala Garzione shared a similar sentiment, remarking, "Dr. Meixner would be honored to know that Jen is the inaugural holder of this professorship."

[More Info](#)

Don't Forget to Submit Your Photos to the WRRC Photo Contest

Calling all photographers! The WRRC is still accepting submissions to its 2024 Photo Contest. This year, we are returning to the broad contest theme — *Water in Arizona*. We invite you to showcase your talent by capturing anything from nature and wildlife to industry and agriculture, including people at play and work. It's totally up to you — just make sure that all images somehow relate to water and are in Arizona. This year's categories include People/Pets, Nature/Wildlife, and The Built Environment, with the Special Category "Borders." We encourage you to use the WRRC's 2025 Annual Conference theme, *Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity*, to inspire your photographs. Photo submissions to the "Borders" category can be from any location; it is the only category not limited to Arizona. Winners will be announced at the 2025 Chocolate Fest in February (date TBD) and winning photographs will be featured on the WRRC's website. Photo Contest images will be used in WRRC publications and other outreach materials. The deadline to submit photos is **December 20, 2024**. Additional information and contest eligibility/criteria can be found on our website. We look forward to seeing your amazing photos!



- [Photo Contest Info](#)
- [Submit Your Photo\(s\)](#)
- [Rules & Guidelines](#)
- [2023 Contest Winners](#)



The Weekly Wave is Moving to a New Platform Soon!

This month, the WRRC is transitioning to Trellis, the University of Arizona's Constituent Relationship Management (CRM) system, to deliver our *Weekly Wave* e-news digest. The new and refreshed format is anticipated to hit inboxes on **October 18**. If you're already subscribed, you should be transferred automatically. This updated delivery system will offer the same content in a sleeker, more condensed layout for easier reading. Please bear with us as we transition to a fresh new look!



WATER JOBS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

WRRC Open Positions

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

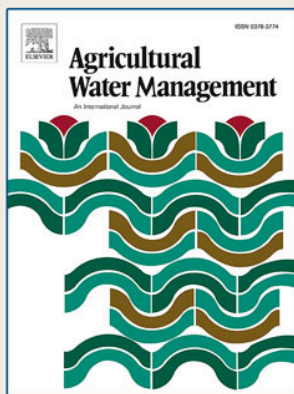
Other Water Jobs

- Sonoran Institute [Senior Director of Development and Marketing](#)
- Sonoran Institute [Director of the Growing Water Smart Program](#)
- Sonoran Institute [Program Manager for Santa Cruz River Program](#)
- Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) [Director](#)

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

WATER NEWS

- [Free e-Book: Pushing the Paradigm of Global Water Security](#)
- [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](#)



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 11:** [2025 UCOWR/NIWR Annual Water Resources Conference – Special Session Proposal Deadline](#)
- **Oct 12:** [Santa Cruz River Cleanup Day](#)
- **Oct 14:** [Indigenous Peoples' Day Phoenix Fest 2024](#)
- **Oct 14:** [Indigenous Peoples' Day 2024 — Generations in Motion at the Heard Museum](#)
- **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:** [CAEM Centennial Lecture — Challenges and Pathways for a Sustainable Arizona Water Future](#)
- **Oct 18:** [TEDxUofA: Desert Genius](#)
- **Oct 18:** [ABWC 33rd 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 30:** [Worldly Women Collective: Women Leading the Future of Water; 5:30–7:30 pm](#) – WRRC Co-sponsored Event
- **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?

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