



Verde Watershed

# Currents

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*"...It is imperative that the major stakeholders listen hard enough to understand the needs and perspectives of each other on a continuing basis in order to be able to achieve the compromises necessary for success."*

Dorothy S. Hores  
on regional watershed  
management partnerships.

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## **TOM O'HALLERAN RECEIVES FIRST DOROTHY S. HORES WATER SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

The First Annual Dorothy S. Hores Water Sustainability Award was presented to State Senator Elect Tom O'Halleran on Saturday, November 18th at the Jerome Fire Station, Jerome, AZ.

This award is presented on behalf of the North Central Arizona Regional Watershed Consortium in recognition of an individual's efforts to promote sustainable water use in Arizona.

The award plaque will be presented each October to mark the beginning of the water year and will reside with that year's recipient until the following October. At that time, the annual award plaque will be passed onto the next year's recipient. The name of each year's recipient will be engraved on a small brass plate and affixed to the plaque with their name and year that recipient was honored. At the end of the water year, the award plaque is to be returned to the Consortium to be passed along to the subsequent recipient. At that time, the former year's recipient will receive a smaller plaque commemorating their individual award and this will

*(Cont'd on Page 4)*



**BRIAN LANE (R), CHAIR OF THE NORTH CENTRAL ARIZONA REGIONAL WATERSHED CONSORTIUM PRESENTS PLAQUE TO TOM O'HALLERAN**

## **VOLUNTEER WELLS NEEDED FOR ADWR STUDY!**

The Department of Water Resources is looking for good sites for monitoring statewide ground water levels.

They are specifically looking for wells that are unused (no pump), in an area that is not influenced by nearby production wells, and wells with a long-term potential for monitoring.

If you have an unused well and would like to volunteer it for use in this program, utilization of the well would involve the installation of a small pressure transducer within the well (measures water level) and a data collection device in a secured enclosure at the top of the well. The data will be collected by satellite telemetry with a site visit quarterly by ADWR staff. The data will be made available on the web for public use.

For further information please contact **Teri Davis (602) 771-1516** or **Jim Jacobson (602) 771-1509**.

Tips from **The Handbook of Water Use and Conservation** by Ann Vickers; here are ways you can help conserve water:

#### **KITCHEN**

- 1.) Wash dishes in the dishwasher. Hand washing dinner dishes uses 15-26 gallons; a conventional dishwasher uses 10-14; an energy-efficient dishwasher uses 4-7 gallons per load.
- 2.) Scrape dishes rather than rinse them.
- 3.) Wait till the dishwasher is full before turning it on.
- 4.) Install an aerator on your kitchen sink. These inexpensive items (about \$5-\$10) mix air into the water, reducing flow while maintaining pressure. Placing aerators on kitchen and bathroom sinks typically reduces water usage by about 4%, according to the American Water Works Association Website.
- 5.) Keep a container of water in the refrigerator rather than running the faucet for the water to get cold.
- 6.) Rinse vegetables in a pan partly filled with water rather than under running water, and reuse the water for watering plants.
- 7.) Defrost food in the refrigerator or microwave rather than run water over it.
- 8.) Compost food scraps when possible (no animal products) rather than run the disposal.

#### **LAUNDRY**

- 9.) Replace an old washing machine with an Energy Star model - the EPA designation for appliances that save significant energy will have the Energy Star label. Although not required to be water-stingy to get an Energy Star rating, most Energy Star models do use 35-50% less water than others. When shopping for a washing machine, look for one with a low Water Usage Factor.
- 10.) Run the washer only when it is full. If you must do a smaller load, use proper settings to reduce the water level.

## **VERDE VALLEY FILM PREMIERE FEB. 11TH- "A RIVER REBORN - THE STORY OF FOSSIL CREEK"**

The VWA will host a showing of the documentary movie "A River Reborn - The Story of Fossil Creek" on Sunday, February 11th, 3-5pm. in the Sedona Room of the Cliff Castle Lodge.

The remarkable story of the restoration of Fossil Creek is recounted in this one-hour public television documentary produced by Emmy Award-winning producer Paul Bockhorst. The film is narrated by Ted Danson.

Danson, best known for playing the role of Sam the Bartender on the very popular television show, CHEERS, grew up in the Flagstaff area. He has donated financial support and assistance to many local organizations over the years. Danson's efforts to help bring attention to the ecological issues facing the Verde are greatly appreciated.

Northern Arizona University Professor Jane Marks (and possibly other makers of the film) will be on-hand for a lively discussion after the movie. This will be the "Premiere Showing" of the film in the Fossil Creek/Verde River area and we hope to see all VWA members there in support of this worthy project. Besides enjoying an excellent documentary on a local subject, this is also a great opportunity to visit with other members of the VWA and renew your membership.

We hope to see you there: Cliff Castle Lodge, Sedona Room located at 333 Middle Verde Road, Camp Verde. For more info: **Carol Johnson 634-6106** or **Ed Wolfe 776-4754**

## **PAMA REPORTS NEW EFFORT NEEDED FOR SAFE YIELD**

A new effort is needed to reach Safe Yield within the Prescott Active Management Area (PAMA). That's the conclusion of the "Final Report on Safe-Yield Impediments, Opportunities, and Strategic Directive" issued by PAMA's Groundwater Users Advisory Group.

The Report states: "Important to the impediments and opportunities for reaching safe-yield are the principles that guide the underlying concept. These principles include the idea that all groundwater users are responsible for reaching safe-yield in proportion to their share of the overdraft, that all groundwater users need to know how much groundwater they may use, and that alternative water supplies need to be developed to meet water demands that are in excess of the safe-yield volume."

It is clear that state legislation is needed to assure all users (including "ex-empt" wells) are made responsible for their share of the overdraft, and that there are sufficient enforcement mechanisms to assure compliance by all. The PAMA overdraft is now over half of the groundwater pumped. A PAMA-wide district may be the best way to achieve the goals of developing new water sources, establishing recharge programs, and dividing the PAMA's annual safe yield groundwater amount among the various parties. State Senator Tom O'Halleran has volunteered to coordinate the stakeholders in developing legislation desired by the PAMA. The full report is available at <http://www.cwagaz.org/reports.html>

**Howard Mechanic, Member - Citizens Water Advocacy Group**  
**Member - Safe-Yield Technical Advisory Committee**

## **Cont'd - Water Saving Tips**

### **BATHROOM**

- 11.) Take a shower of no more than five minutes rather than a bath.
- 12.) Install a water-efficient shower head. "Replace an existing shower head if a 1-gallon bucket placed under the flow takes less than 20 seconds to fill," advises the American Water Works Association.
- 13.) Do not leave the faucet running while brushing teeth or shaving.
- 14.) Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- 15.) Replace old toilets (1993 or earlier) with new, low-flow toilets. Installing more efficient models will save the typical household from 8K-21K gallons of water a year, according to the AWWA.
- 16.) If you can't replace an old toilet, reduce the amount of water it uses by placing a plastic bottle filled with water in the tank to displace water. Do not put a brick in the tank.
- 17.) According to the AWWA, 20% of all toilets leak. Here's an easy way to check for a leak: Place a few drops of food dye in the tank; check the bowl 15 minutes later; if there's color in the bowl - there's a leak. Replacing the flapper will often fix the problem.

### **OUTDOORS**

- 18.) Water your lawn and garden only when they need it.
- 19.) Water lawns early in the morning. To avoid water loss to evaporation, do not water on windy days.
- 20.) Water in short sessions rather than long ones for better absorption of water and to prevent runoff.
- 21.) Adjust an automatic sprinkler system at least once a month or, better yet, set it by hand each time you use it. Even better, do not install an automatic sprinkler system if you don't already have one. Homes with sprinkler systems use 35% more water (AWWA).
- 22.) Make sure sprinkler heads are working correctly and not watering the driveway or the street.

## **CWAG: 2006 YEAR-IN-REVIEW**

2006 was a "You've come a long way baby!" year. We received our 501c3 (h) and compiled a Policy and Procedures Manual for CWAG taking all board minutes since the organization's inception and including any fundamental board recommendations in the handbook.

CWAG sits on the Safe Yield Subcommittee of the Groundwater User's Advisory Council (Governor appointed) and also serves on its Technical Advisory Committee (Howard Mechanic). We recently completed our mission to prepare a report that spelled out the impediments in the Prescott Active Management Area forreaching Safe Yield and this included some relevant solutions to these impediments.

Kay Lauster, 1st President of CWAG, assumed responsibility of the Education Committee early in 2006. She and her committee have hosted numerous educational, scientific and thought provoking presentations/outings during the year - including Laurie Wirt (now deceased) USGS on the Upper Verde, effluent, conservation, population and included a headwaters hike. Delores Manburg has kept the community busy with our Speaker's Bureau and CWAG has expanded its meeting coverage, holding Water 101 programs in Prescott Valley and Chino Valley.

CWAG continues to be concerned with the Prescott Active Management Area (PAMA) reaching Safe Yield by 2025. We are concerned about the damage to the Upper Verde River if the Big Chino groundwater is pumped. We remain concerned that there are no state laws to control Exempt Wells and that the generally associated septic systems do not produce effluent to replenish the aquifer. We strive as an organization to work with all PAMA partners as well as State Government to bring about positive outcomes in the PAMA, to promote water sustainability, and to ensure the health of the Upper Verde River.

We currently serve on the Verde River Basin Partnership (Muriel Haverland representative) as charter members and are encouraging the local jurisdictions to get on board with the partnership. We have also taken a formal position requesting an Environmental Impact Study on the Big Chino Pipeline Project before any work begins. We also have representation in NCARWC - Northern Central Arizona Regional Watershed Consortium (Mindy Schlingen, representative ) which is now focused on starting a state-wide watershed consortium.

**-Muriel Haverland President 2006, Citizens Water Advocacy Group, [info@cwagaz.org](mailto:info@cwagaz.org)**

## **MCCAIN REQUESTS FUNDING FOR VERDE RIVER BASIN PARTNERSHIP WORK**

On January 12, Senator McCain sent a letter to President Bush asking that \$610,000 be included in the President's Fiscal 2008 budget to fund the U.S. Geological Survey for the first of four years of hydrologic studies in support of the Verde River Basin Partnership.

The letter confirms the validity of the existing Partnership, which Sen. McCain describes as "representatives from federal, state, and local authorities, as well as economic, environmental and community water interests" -- "stakeholders... working in a collaborative manner as partners with the common goal of establishing a science-based water supply conservation program for the Verde Basin watershed."

Assembly of the Partnership, which was authorized by federal legislation, stems from efforts initiated in early 2006 by the Verde Watershed Association. -

**Edward W. Wolfe [ewwolfe@commspeed.net](mailto:ewwolfe@commspeed.net)**

**Cont'd - Water Saving Tips**

- 23.) Use drip irrigation to water shrubs, vegetable and flower gardens. Much less water is lost to evaporation with drip systems than spray systems.
- 24.) Mulch gardens and shrubs.
- 25.) Reduce the size of your lawn and xeriscape other portions of your yard, using plants that prosper with very little water. In addition to conserving resources, xeriscapes are low-maintenance (they conserve your resources, too.) Or, have a cluster of low-water plants and reduce the water to that area accordingly.
- 26.) Aerate clay soils to improve water retention and prevent runoff.
- 27.) Cover pools and spas when not in use. A pool left uncovered loses about 1,000 gallons a month to evaporation (AWWA).
- 28.) Thinking about installing an artificial pond or fountain? Don't do it, says Vickers. Even though these features are usually designed to recirculate water, they lose large quantities of water to evaporation.
- 29.) Use a broom rather than a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.

**O'HALLERAN RECEIVES AWARD - CONT'D FROM PG 1**

be theirs to keep.

This year's recipient is State Senator Tom O'Halleran. As a District 1 State Representative since 2001 he has served as Chairman of the Natural Resource Committee; he is a member of the Governor's Water Commission Technical Advisory Committee; co-chair of the Council of State Governments Water & Environment Committee, and serves on the State Water Advisory Group. He has also served as Chairman of the Verde Watershed Association and the Arizona Watershed Alliance... among many other various chairs, committees and organizations.

The actual award reads as follows: "The North Central Arizona Regional Watershed Consortium hereby presents this Dorothy S. Hores Water Sustainability Award; Conferred annually upon an individual in recognition and appreciation of their extraordinary efforts to promote sustainable water use in Arizona."

**PROPOSED LISTING OF EAST VERDE RIVER**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is proposing to place 25.8 miles of the East Verde River below American Gulch on the 303(d) list of impaired waters due to standard exceedances for arsenic and boron. Most of the exceedances have occurred at low flows, generally less than 5 cubic feet per second. The highest exceedance for arsenic was eight times the water quality standard for the protection of domestic water sources, while boron was three times the standard. For more information on this proposed listing contact Diana Marsh at (602) 771-4545 or Anel Avila at (602) 771-4647.

**IMPORTANT - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

If you have not already done so, please pay your annual dues for 2007. Annual dues should be paid by the start of the calendar year and will cover the remainder of the calendar year.

What do you get for your dues? Besides a great quarterly newsletter full of watershed and other water related activities and information, membership in the Verde Watershed Association allows one to be more informed on issues and items directly related to the Verde Watershed. The VWA provides an opportunity for dialogue and discussion on items that may affect the Verde River and the watershed.

**Membership Form for the Verde Watershed Association**

Government units	\$ 100 per year
Business for profit	100 per year
Civic groups and non-profits	50 per year
Individuals	25 per year

Make check payable and mail to:

**Verde Watershed Association  
P.O. Box 4001  
Cottonwood, AZ 86326**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address to receive the Verde Currents E-Newsletter:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Web site: [www.vwa.org](http://www.vwa.org)**

**Amount Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_