

THE IMPACTS OF CORONAVIRUS ON AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST

Unfortunately, this CDC image of the morphology of the coronavirus has become all too familiar on-line and in newspapers over the last few weeks. The disruptions to social and economic activities from the pandemic are having far reaching



consequences throughout the US and the world. The educational outreach work of the American Ground Water Trust has not escaped the disruption. Much of our regular work involves travel and meetings, neither of which is happening. Several AGWT planned events have been rescheduled to dates that we hope will be at a time when the crisis is over. However, rescheduling of planned events and renegotiating contract dates with conferences centers and hotels is fraught with uncertainty because of the unknown time-line and regional impacts of the virus.

There are also the long term financial challenges for our organization as we are unexpectedly deprived of the revenue stream associated with conferences and

workshops. Fortunately, our membership support and the commitment of our major sponsors will enable us to continue our educational outreach to well owners and community leaders who contact us with groundwater and water well questions by phone and email.

[If you haven't yet renewed your 2020 AGWT membership; now would be a great time to do so! Just visit our website and click **Support our Mission** <u>https://agwt.org/content/support-agwt]</u>

The forced hiatus in travel and meetings will also allow us time to develop additional on-demand videos for groundwater and water-well information. Our video on YouTube "How a Water Well is Drilled" has been viewed over 3,500,000 times.

Please check our web-site <u>www.agwt.org/events</u> for rescheduled dates for our 2020 education programs. For rescheduling events, the AGWT will follow guidelines about travel & meetings from the authorities in each of the states where we have programs planned.

While maintaining safe supply of drinking water is of great importance to maintain good health, the good news for the public is that the coronavirus is not spread via drinking water. Water utilities large and small are regulated and adhere to strict water quality standards; the nation's 15 million private well owners are reminded that they have the responsibility to check the safety of drinking water from their wells.

www.agwt.org/events

For program details, registration and sponsor & exhibit opportunities and all AGWT education/conference/workshop programs AGWT Issues and Education (Planned Events)

> PFAS Workshop-Northwest Olympia, WA June 24

New Mexico Groundwater Conference Albuquerque, NM July 20 & 21

> PFAS Workshop Atlanta, GA August 10

Texas Groundwater Conference Austin, TX August 12 & 13

Florida Groundwater Conference Orlando, FL October 7 & 8

Colorado Groundwater Conference Denver, CO November 16 & 17

Source Water Protection Conference NH DES and AGWT Concord, NH December 15

Groundwater for Teachers Institute Nebraska City, NE (Now June 2021)

For updates on AGWT programs visit:



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DEEP WELL INJECTION—MIAMI CONFERENCE

Injection wells is a technology applied in the Industrial and Municipal industry that utilize deep geologic formations for liquid waste disposal. The injection zones are separated by thick impermeable geologic layers that protect overlying freshwater aquifers from upward migration of contaminants. Freshwater aquifers are described in the regulations as USDW - an underground source of drinking water. World-wide there are thousands of liquid waste disposal injection well systems, many



Anamaria Sarmiento, a Stantec Hydrogeologist, has day to day on-site responsibility for monitoring the progress of the South District drilling operations. She is pictured here explaining the many geological and geophysical data sets obtained daily for each well as drilling proceeds. of which have been in use for decades. The American Ground Water Trust organized a conference in Miami, FL to showcase deep well injection technology and provide an update on the status of deep well injection for the disposal of liquid waste. The March program, held in cooperation with the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department included conference presentations from experts on the status of deep well injection and a pre-conference field trip to view active deep well drilling at the Miami Dade's South District site. There were three Youngquist Brothers drill rigs in action during the visit, all of them targeting zones thousands of feet below the surface for the disposal of treated municipal wastewater.



Pictured here is the electric powered drill rig on Well 20. At the time of the field trip, the drill had reached 450 feet and was reaming the well at a diameter of 62 inches. Harvey Youngquist provided the field trip participants with detailed information about the drilling process. Youngquist Brothers is the drilling contractor for all three injection wells.



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

In places where authorities have restricted business activity during this time of the spread of Coronavirus, groundwater professionals should be able to continue operations. Well drillers and pump installers are responsible for maintaining drinking water supply for homes and communities and as such have been deemed by the Department of Health Services to be *Critical Infrastructure Workers*.

According to the DHS Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), there are 14 employment categories identified as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers.

These include:

"5. Water and wastewater Employees needed to operate and maintain drinking water and wastewater/drainage Infrastructure."

PERFLUOROOCTANOIC ACID AND PERFLUOROOCTANE SULFONATE (PFAS)

In these days of public focus on the coronavirus, we should not forget that maintaining safe drinking water is an ongoing



PFAS and water supply may currently be overshadowed in the news, but the PFAS problem will be with us long after the coronavirus has been suppressed or vanquished. A reminder of the need to stay focused on the issue of PFAS is evidenced by recent legal action by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA).

In February, the NRWA filed a class action lawsuit seeking damages for the costs involved in testing and treatment related to contamination of water supplies. Among the several defendant companies are the chemical manufacturers that developed, marketed, and sold PFAS compounds. Used in firefighting foam, household goods, food packaging, and many other products over the last forty years, PFAS compounds (forever chemicals) are now detected in water supply sources nationwide.

In a statement released by NRWA, the Association said, "NRWA took this action for a simple reason: rural water and wastewater systems are not responsible for manufacturing or introducing these man-made chemical compounds into communities and environments. They should not have to bear the burden for the costs of testing, treatment and remediation and then having to pass these significant costs on to their customers."



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AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND SPONSORS

We encourage entry level college students intending to pursue a career in the field of groundwater to apply for an American Ground Water Trust Scholarship. Application Deadline: July 30, 2020 — <u>https://agwt.org/content/scholarship-opportunities</u>

Thank you to our current Scholarship Sponsors:



If you are interested in offering a scholarship in your company name, please contact AGWT. We will administer the program, advertise the scholarship and select award winners. The amount funded for a scholarship is awarded in full.

AGWT CORPORATE SUPPORTER CORNER

FEATURING...



ResinTech Inc. manufactures a broad range of ion exchange resins, activated carbons, and selective adsorbents used in groundwater treatment for the removal of PFAS, perchlorate, chromate, arsenic, nitrate, uranium, radium and other contaminants. Industrial applications include deionization, softening, metals removal, and pollution control. ResinTech's technical support team uses its proprietary MIST-X software to accurately predict effluent profiles and bed volume throughput, and the company's state-of-the-art laboratory offers complete water and resin testing capabilities. The company also manufactures point-of-use cartridges and ultrapure lab water systems under the Aries Filterworks brand while offering resin regeneration services via our subsidiary ACM Technologies.

> ResinTech, Inc. 160 Cooper Road West Berlin, NJ 08091

https://www.resintech.com/

GREEN LAWNS AND SAFE WELLS

Every spring, the desire for a green, weed-free lawn sends millions of the nation's homeowners out to purchase fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.



Often theses chemicals are misapplied or when results aren't forthcoming, get overused or stored away unused. Improper applications and unsafe storage of garden chemicals can lead to contamination of groundwater and nearby creeks lakes and ponds. Well owners should be especially careful.

► Rule #1 Do you really need lawn chemicals? Before you rush out to buy, first visit: <u>https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/reducewastepesticides.pdf</u>

► Rule #2 If you must use chemicals, READ THE LABEL about how much chemical to use and when. Most contamination results from overuse, applying at the wrong time of grass growth and in the wrong weather conditions.

► Some common-sense guidance:

- Test the soil to determine what kind of treatment your lawn needs.
- Overuse of chemicals can kill beneficial earthworms and microorganisms.
- Mix and apply chemicals as far away as possible from your well.
- Do not apply lawn chemicals if heavy rain is expected.
- Don't spray chemicals via a garden hose unless you have an anti-siphon device.
- Store unused chemicals under cover and off the ground away from moisture.
- Do not dump unwanted pesticides or fertilizers onto the ground or in the woods.
- Take old or leftover chemicals to a hazardous waste collection site.
- Only choose a professional lawn care company that practices safe precautionary methods.

"The average lawn gets up to 10x as much chemical pesticide and herbicide use as commercial farmland!" US Wildlife Federation





AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST

AGWT's mission is to increase awareness about water resource issues, particularly those that involve groundwater

By convening and organizing conferences, workshops and focused training programs, the AGWT:

- Promotes efficient and effective groundwater management
- Showcases groundwater science and technology solutions
- Increases citizen, community and decision-maker awareness
- Facilitates stakeholder participation in water resource decisions
- Communicates the environmental and economic value of groundwater
- Provides a safe haven to discuss "difficult" issues

WAYS TO SUPPORT GROUNDWATER EDUCATION

AGWT has been providing objective information about groundwater and water resources for over 30 years. Because it is a hidden resource, groundwater is often misunderstood and undervalued. The AGWT mantra is "science as the basis for policy." In local, state and national issues regarding water policy, allocation authority and protection regulations there can sometimes be an atmosphere of exaggeration and spin from vested interests. In framing the issues for our education programs and in inviting presenters, the AGWT strives to maintain balance and inclusion of all points of view.

Some of our educational outreach is grant funded, but in order to meet our mission and provide an independent voice over groundwater issues, we also rely on the generosity of individuals and companies. You can help increase our educational impact in several different ways.

- Becoming an individual or corporate member
- Sponsoring and exhibiting at an AGWT event
- Sponsoring our Newsletter
- Hosting a program for teachers (We have trained over 2,000)
- Sponsoring a scholarship in the name of your company/organization
- Underwriting specific direct costs such as:
- Computers, website maintenance, printing, travel, etc.

• Anything that moves... American Ground Water Trust has partnered with Insurance Auto Auctions, Inc. (IAAI) to process your vehicle donation. Your unused/unwanted vehicle is worth cash for support of American Ground Water Trust. All funds raised are used to provide education and training programs dedicated to providing and protecting water resources. Call 800-423-7748 to donate your vehicle to the American Ground Water Trust's education mission. https://agwt.org/content/support-agwt







AGWT Events Page AGWT Facebook

WANT SOME GROUNDWATER FACTS? TRY THESE THREE WEB-SITES:

<u>https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/groundwater/</u> <u>https://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/circ1186/html/gen_facts.html</u> https://www.ngwa.org/what-is-groundwater/About-groundwater/groundwater-facts

INVEST IN THE AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST

A 501(c)(3) non-profit education organization

AGWT Members at \$5,000+ level



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If your company or organization would like to sponsor a future AGWT Newsletter, please contact catherine@agwt.org (The electronic version has a nation-wide circulation of over 30,000)