

# National Ground Water Association Fact Sheet

09-2017

As the leading advocate for the groundwater professions, NGWA serves you, the professional who provides, protects, manages, and remediates groundwater, and those who contribute toward those outcomes. NGWA conveniently and promptly delivers a broad and extensive range of resources to help you succeed through relationships, leading-edge and emerging practices, and credible sources of new ideas and solutions.

## Primary staff contact

Kevin B. McCray, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

## Founding date

1948 (as National Water Well Association)

## Mission

NGWA is a community of groundwater professionals working together to advance groundwater knowledge and the success of our members through education and outreach; advocacy; cooperation and information exchange; and enhancement of professional practices.

## Our vision

NGWA's vision is to be the leading groundwater association advocating the responsible development, management, and use of water.

## Our goals

- NGWA and its members will use its outstanding scientific and technical leadership, knowledge, and resources to pursue innovation, model best practices, and improve the business climate for the groundwater industry.
- NGWA will be a credible, valued resource on significant and timely issues that impact the groundwater industry and public access to safe, sustainable groundwater.
- Our community will grow and benefit from the participation of all groundwater professionals.
- Through NGWA's efforts, the public will be confident there is a sustainable groundwater resource for domestic, municipal, industrial, ecological, and agricultural uses.

## Our values

- We believe the whole of NGWA is greater than the sum of its parts.
- We share a commitment to the informed, responsible, and sustainable use of groundwater.
- We are a community of professionals who value diverse perspectives, and sharing and learning from experience and research.
- We are responsive to our members' needs and interests.

## Description of membership

NGWA has four membership sections — contractors, scientists and engineers, manufacturers, and suppliers; others with an interest in groundwater, but who are not employed in one of these four categories, may join as an associate.

## Board of directors

- National board has 19 voting members
- Each membership section has an oversight board
- Delegates from the general membership elect some directors and modify the NGWA Code of Regulations

## Affiliated organizations

- Affiliated organizations — 38
- NGWA conducts an annual Affiliate Organizations Peer-to-Peer Meeting during Groundwater Week
- Provides contracted management services to associations



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WellOwner.org  
WaterWellJournal.com  
GroundwaterWeek.com  
GroundwaterSummit.com  
Community.NGWA.org  
Facebook.com/NGWAFB  
Facebook.com/Water.Central

Facebook.com/WaterWellJournal  
Facebook.com/WellOwner  
Linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=4204578  
Twitter.com/ngwatweets  
Twitter.com/ngwa\_govtaffs  
Twitter.com/WaterWellJournal  
YouTube.com/user/NGWATUBE

## Domestic memorandums of understanding

- Association of American State Geologists
- Environmental and Engineering Geophysical Society
- Geothermal Energy Organization
- Green Builder Coalition
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Association
- Irrigation Association
- National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
- New England Geothermal Professional Association Inc.
- One Water Management
- Society of Exploration Geophysicists

## International memorandums of understanding

- Argentinian National Water Institute (Instituto Nacional del Agua)
- Association of Water Well Drilling Rig Owners & Practitioners (AWDROP) of Nigeria
- Australian Drilling Industry Association
- Borehole Drillers Association of Nigeria
- Borehole Water Association of Southern Africa
- Brazilian Ground Water Association (Associação Brasileira de Aguas Subterraneas)
- China Engineering Center Partnership for Contaminated Site Remediation
- Colombian Association of Hydrogeologists (Asociación Colombiana de Hidrogeólogos)
- Colombian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering — Instituto Nacional del Agua (Argentina).
- European Ground Source Heat Pump Association
- Finnish Well Drillers Association (Finland)
- Geological Society of London
- Groundwater Association of Botswana
- Industrial Society of Well Drilling in Taiwan Area
- International Association of Hydrogeologists
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
- Japanese Association of Groundwater Hydrology
- Korea Ground Water Association
- Mexican Hydrogeology Association (Asociación Geohidrológica Mexicana)
- National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training
- National Hydrogeology and Water Well Association of Italy (Associazione Nazionale Idrogeologia Pozzi Acqua)
- New Zealand Drillers Federation
- Sweden Avanti Drillers Association
- Taiwan Association of Soil and Groundwater Environmental Protection
- Venezuelan Association of the Ground Water Industry (Asociación Venezolana de la Industria de las Aguas Subterraneas)

## Memberships

NGWA is a member, or an associate member, of:

- Advisory Committee on Water Information, Subcommittee on Groundwater
- American Geosciences Institute
- American National Standards Institute
- Coalition for National Science Funding
- Geological Society of America
- Global Water Partnership
- Groundwater Foundation
- Groundwater Management Districts Association
- Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice (GRIPP)
- Groundwater Visibility Initiative
- International Union of Geological Sciences
- Source Water Collaborative
- U.S. Water Alliance
- U.S. Water Partnership
- WaterSense (U.S. EPA program)
- Water Systems Council.

**In the past several years, NGWA has cooperated with more than 200 organizations worldwide.**

## Foundation

The NGWA Foundation [501(c)(3)] (established 1994):

- Conducts annual Henry Darcy Distinguished Lecture Series in Groundwater Science at universities and colleges around the world (since 1986)
- Conducts annual William A. McElhiney Distinguished Lecture Series in Water Well Technology (since 2000)
- Maintains the Virtual Museum of Groundwater History (since 2002)
- Awards undergraduate scholarships (since 1975)
- Awards research grants (since 2006)
- Awards humanitarian assistance grants for potable groundwater supply in developing nations (since 2005)
- Funded the public informational study, "Trends in the U.S. Marketplace for Individually Owned Private Wells"
- Funded groundwater exhibits in touring water showcase at science museums around the world.

## Political action committee

NGWA-PAC (established 1998) limits support only to candidates for election or reelection to the U.S. Congress.

## NGWA consolidated budget

\$5.5 million

## Certifications

- Voluntary certification programs in well construction, pump installation, and ground-source heat pump applications — Certified Well Driller (CWD), Certified Pump Installer (CPI), Certified Well Driller/Pump Installer (CWD/PI), Certified Vertical Closed Loop Driller (CVCLD), and Master Groundwater Contractor (MGWC), the latter of which may be earned only after successfully passing qualifying contractor certification examinations
- Voluntary designation program in drilling and pump systems sales for manufacturers and suppliers — Certified Sales Professional (CSP-I, CSP-II)
- Voluntary certification program for scientists and engineers practicing in the groundwater industry — Certified Groundwater Professional (CGWP)

## Committees, subcommittees, task forces

Committees, subcommittees, and task forces for NGWA include:

- Awards Committee
- Finance and Budget Committee
- Government Affairs Committee
- Membership Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Safety Committee
- Standard Development Oversight Task Group.

## Convention and international trade show

- 2017 — Nashville, Tennessee, December 5-7
- 2018 — Las Vegas, Nevada, December 4-6
- 2019 — Las Vegas, Nevada, December 3-5
- 2020 — Las Vegas, Nevada, December 8-10
- 2021 — Nashville, Tennessee, December 14-16
- 2022 — Las Vegas, Nevada, December 6-8

## Information services

- A continually updated online database currently containing more than 17,000 groundwater literature citations from NGWA's publications and conference proceedings
- Standards, guidelines, criteria, practices, and procedures
- Educators' resource section on the website providing a listing of groundwater resource materials as well as lesson plans
- An online bookstore providing publications, videos, and other materials related to groundwater science and well technology
- NGWA.org
- WellOwner.org
- WaterWellJournal.com
- GroundwaterWeek.com
- GroundwaterSummit.com
- Community.NGWA.org
- Facebook.com/NGWAFB

- Facebook.com/Water.Central
- Facebook.com/WaterWellJournal
- Facebook.com/WellOwner
- LinkedIn.com/grp/home?gid=4204578
- Twitter.com/ngwatweets
- Twitter.com/ngwa\_govtaffs
- Twitter.com/WaterWellJournal
- YouTube.com/user/NGWATUBE

## Programs

- NGWA is the leader in continuing groundwater professional education, offering conferences, short courses, workshops, and free online topical discussions throughout the world
  - Theis Hydrogeology Conference
  - Annual Groundwater Week
  - Annual NGWA Groundwater Summit
  - Special topic conferences
  - Regional hydrogeological conferences
- Provides discounts on various products and services important to the membership, including property and casualty insurance
- Federal government affairs advocacy effort
- National Groundwater Awareness Week each March
- Protect Your Groundwater Day each September
- Ongoing public awareness of groundwater and water well stewardship
- Regional trade expositions management services

## Publications

Three periodicals, in digital and print formats, expertly cover the groundwater industry:

- *Groundwater*<sup>®</sup> — bimonthly academic journal (accepts educational, display, employment, and professional card advertising)
- *Groundwater Monitoring & Remediation*<sup>®</sup> — quarterly technical journal (accepts display and professional card advertising)
- *Water Well Journal*<sup>®</sup> — monthly trade journal (accepts display and classified advertising)

NGWA twice-monthly e-publications: *NGWA Toolkit* and *Washington Update* serving all members (both accept banner ads)

## Scholarships

The NGWA Foundation's Len Assante Scholarship Fund — number granted varies, as do amounts

## Speakers bureau

Volunteers and staff are available to speak on a variety of groundwater industry topics, as well as association management topics.

## Standards, guidelines, and best suggested practices

- BSR/NGWA 01-201x Water Well Construction Standard (revision in progress)
- BSR/NGWA-03-1X Water Well Pump Systems Standard (in progress)
- Decision Matrix: Incorporating Field Complexity in Groundwater Modeling (in progress)
- Facilitating Use of the Analytical Element Method in Groundwater Modeling (in progress)
- Groundwater and PFAS: State of Knowledge and Practice (in progress)
- Guidelines for the Construction of Vertical Boreholes for Closed Loop Heat Pump Systems, fourth edition (2016)
- An Introduction to Water Well Hydrofracturing: A Form of Well Development and Cleaning, second edition (2016)
- Operational Stages of the Well: Evaluating the Forms of Water Well Deterioration and Developing Corrective Actions (2016)
- Understanding Hydrogeology and Its Impact on Large-Scale Geothermal Heat Pump Systems (2015)
- Use of Step-Wise Modeling for Groundwater (in progress)
- Best suggested practices (BSPs) —
  - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (2014)
  - Designing, Operating, and Maintaining Adjunct Groundwater Storage for Drinking Water Purposes (in development)
  - Managing a Flowing Water Well (2010)
  - Reduce and Mitigate Problematic Concentrations of Methane in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Arsenic in Residential Water Well Systems (2016)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Boron in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Fluoride in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Hydrogen Sulfide in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Iron and Manganese in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Lead in Residential Water Well Systems (2016)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Microorganisms in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Nitrates in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Perchlorate in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Radium in Residential Water Well Systems (in development)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Radon in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)
  - Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Strontium in Residential Water Well Systems (2013)

- Reducing Problematic Concentrations of Uranium in Residential Water Well Systems (2014)
- Residential Water Well Disinfection Following a Flood Event: Procedures for Water Well System Professionals (2013)
- Residential Well Cleaning (2015)
- Water Well and Pump System Operation and Maintenance (in development)
- Water Well Development Methods (in development)
- Water Well Disinfection (in development)
- Water Well Systems for Fire Protection Services for Stand-Alone Housing Units of Four or Fewer (2014)
- Water Well Systems Inspection (2016)

## External funding

By contract, the Association has provided services to, or with the support of, organizations such as:

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
- The Kompetenzzentrum Wasser Berlin
- Michigan Ground Water Association
- Minnesota Water Well Association
- Montana Water Well Drillers Association
- National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training (Flinders University, Australia)
- Pacific Northwest Ground Water Expo
- Red Deer Community College, Alberta
- University of Memphis Ground Water Institute
- Water Management Association of Ohio
- Water Research Foundation.

## Honors

- Associations Advance America Award — Haiti Relief Efforts — *American Society of Association Executives*
- Achievement Award Technology — Drilling Cost Calculator — *Ohio Society of Association Executives*
- Associations Advance America Award — Well Disinfection Guide for Tsunami Relief — *American Society of Association Executives*
- Associations Advance America Award — Tote a Toy for a Kid Campaign, National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation — *American Society of Association Executives*
- Associations Advance America Award — Groundwater Awareness Week — *American Society of Association Executives*
- Silver Award for Special Projects, website — Virtual Museum of Groundwater History — *Association TRENDS*
- Numerous honors for NGWA periodicals