

WELCOME TO THE AIPG - AGWT CONFERENCE PARTNERSHIP

“We know that education is not an end in itself, but is a means to an end.”

On behalf of the American Ground Water Trust (AGWT) I am pleased to welcome you to the partnership with the American Institute of Professional Geologists for the 2010 program in Orlando. 2010 will be the tenth consecutive year that the AGWT has convened an aquifer storage recovery conference in Florida. Discussions between AIPG and AGWT on combining the 2010 AIPG Annual Meeting and the AGWT's annual Florida ASR program began over a year ago. We believe that the synergy of the partnership, and the networking opportunities among geoscientists of varied disciplines from around the country, will result in a top-class professional experience for all those interested in understanding, developing and protecting for sustainable use, the benefits of our rich geological heritage.

The AGWT is a non-profit education organization, headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire. Since 1998 we have convened over 100 conferences and workshops, twenty of which have had a specific focus on aquifer recharge. The objective of these programs has been to create information exchange opportunities that will result in policy decisions on water use and sustainability based on common-sense, good science and the latest technologies. We believe that our aquifer recharge conferences have helped frame water issues, provide technical perspectives and have assisted with solutions to water planning and management decisions. Over the years, the invited presentations from hundreds of leading experts have addressed specific local, regional and national ground water resources issues and collectively they have created greater awareness, helped overcome ignorance, exposed bias, provided objective technical information and given inclusive opportunity for the airing of informed opinion.

There is a vitally important role for geoscience expertise in finding local, regional and national solutions to America's vexing water issues. America's population is increasing by 7,000 people each day. Drought, climate change uncertainties, ecological needs and current supply sources that are "maxed-out" bring into sharp focus the need to make greater use of aquifers for storage of additional water and to develop the conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources as a key element of water management. In times of water shortage there is no such thing as "waste-water." All water has the potential for use. Storm-water capture, reuse from treatment facilities (shower to flower) and desalination of water from terrestrial or marine sources represent potential sources for aquifer recharge via wells, spreading basins or by routing to areas with natural recharge capabilities.

On a national basis, Florida has a high concentration of aquifer storage projects in various stages of planning, design, and operation. Results from cycle tests, laboratory bench tests, modeling and operational experience are providing water managers with solutions to issues such as the mobilization of metals that may be naturally present in an aquifer, the degradation of disinfection by-products, and attenuation of microorganisms in recharged aquifers. The 2010 conference in Orlando will provide a great opportunity to share results among geoscientists, engineers and water managers about constantly evolving endeavors to safely optimize recharge and recovery performance and comply with the shifting ground of public perception and regulatory compliance.

The call for presentations encompasses all aspects of aquifer recharge nation-wide. Included in the September conference will be two full days of presentations in seven sessions devoted to aquifer recharge topics. In addition, there are pre and post-conference field visit opportunities to a total of seven recharge project sites in Florida, all with different management objectives, geologic conditions, recharge water sources, operational procedures, and regulatory issues. Each field trip stop will have experts on site who are, or have been, involved with the project design and operation activities.

We look forward to meeting you and fellow geoscientists from around the world in Orlando in September.

Andrew Stone, Executive Director
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Suwanee River, Florida. Photo by AGWT.