

AWRA UW Newsletter



**American Water Resources Association - University of Washington
Winter Quarter 2010**

Greetings everyone!

Winter quarter has begun, and the AWRA UW student chapter has great plans for 2010! We would like to take this opportunity to let you know about our past activities, and invite you to join us at our upcoming events in the coming months.

Best wishes from your AWRA UW officers: Erin, Mark, Dan, Matt and Kelsey

Upcoming Winter Quarter Events

Water Center Annual Review of Research

What: The multidisciplinary expertise of the Water Center's faculty and students present the latest UW research on water and water-related topics. The day-long Annual Reviews:

- Provide up-to-date water resource information for managers and decision-makers
- Bring new research findings into widespread use
- Provide mechanisms and networking to address regional water issues

When: February 17, 2010

Where: HUB West Ballroom

Cost: Free to everyone

Website: <http://water.washington.edu/>

AWRA Student-State Mixer

What: An opportunity to network with water resource professionals, enjoy light refreshments, and learn about Dr. Ashley Steel's current research in riverine thermal regimes.

When: 7:30pm, Wednesday, January 20th, 2010

Where: Waterfront Activities Center

MLK Day of Service

What: Volunteer restoration event: Volunteers will be removing invasive plants (mostly ivy), planting natives and spreading mulch.

When: 10am - 12pm, Saturday, **January 23, 2010**

Where: West parking lot of Merrill hall to meet at ten, then on the West tip of the peninsula of Union Bay Natural Area.

What to bring: clothes that are waterproof and mud-loving, friends, gloves if you have them. We'll also have gloves and tools on hand, plus surprise gifts (while supplies last!).

Snowshoe Trip

What: Snowshoe trip to Snoqualmie Pass, (Commonwealth Basin)

When: **February 2010**; date and time TBA. See website for updates:

<http://students.washington.edu/awra/>

Where: Meet at Anderson Hall parking lot

What to bring: Warm clothes, food, water and snowshoes (can rent from REI or IMA)

Cost: Free to AWRA-UW members (or bring \$10 to join); transportation will be provided.

Past Events

AWRA UW has been keeping busy with events over the past several months. See what you've been missing!

Visit our website:

<http://students.washington.edu/awra/>

2009 Annual Water Resources Conference (November 9-12 2009)

The 2009 AWRA National Conference was hosted right here in Seattle. Hundreds of attendees from all over the country as well as right here in the Puget Sound came to meet and learn and discuss emerging issues related to water. The conference had over 260 speakers and panelists from academia, government, consulting and non-profit backgrounds that spoke on a variety of interesting topics. These engaging interdisciplinary presentations covered topics ranging from public policy, ecology, civil engineering, geo-hydrology and watershed management (just to name a few). A few highlights for our own UW Chapter include:

Speed networking night: sponsored by the UW Chapter, in which over 60 students and professionals from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines met with each other one on one to ask questions, exchange business cards and network for potential employment.

Student night out: The UW Chapter hosted a student night out in which students and young professionals socialized over a few beers at the Pike Place Brewery.

AWRA-Washington State Chapter Fellowship: our own Erin Donley, graduate student in College of Forestry and School of Public Affairs, received one of the two fellowships this year.

Oral and poster presentations: by University of Washington graduate student Julie Vano.

West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

While many of our members study water supply, and water in natural systems, few of us have extensive knowledge about what happens to our water after we use it. So on November 18th, AWRA UW and AWWA UW students joined for an educational tour of Seattle's West Point Waste Water Treatment Facility. During the tour, we learned about the treatment process for the 100 million gallons of wastewater that enter the plant each day. Our guide gave us a detailed introduction to the treatment process – from preliminary and primary treatment, to secondary treatment and disinfection. We also received an up-close look at the plant's byproducts recovery systems, including biosolids production, reclaimed water processing, and methane recovery. The outing was extremely informative and a lot of fun!



First Winter Meeting

On Friday, January 8th, the AWRA UW chapter held its first meeting of the Winter quarter. We had a great turnout from new and returning members. We introduced the newcomers to AWRA's mission and described our club's past activities. We also voted on suggestions for Spring quarter events. It was a great time to reconnect after Winter break, welcome new members and get excited about the up-coming activities.

Liquid Assets Movie Viewing

On November 18, 2009, AWRA UW members were treated to a screening of Liquid Assets, a documentary about the importance and vulnerability of U.S. water infrastructure. Members were treated to pizza, soda, and a discussion with Ray Hoffman, Acting Director of Seattle Public Utilities. A fun, educational event for all.

Future Activities

Recent State News

AWRA UW Events

River Rafting

AWRA UW plans to take a trip to the Skagit River near North Cascades National Park for a day of white water fun. This is will be a great educational experience as well as a fun adrenaline rush!

Volunteering with Pacific Science Center

“Engaging Youth in Scientific Discovery.” AWRA UW will be invited to host an exhibit on watershed processes and function.

Trip to Tolt River Restoration Site

In 1999, Puget Sound Chinook salmon became listed under the Endangered Species Act. Ever since then, local governments have been working to recover salmon populations. About 20% of the Chinook salmon that enter the Snoqualmie River spawn in the Tolt River. Our local government is working to restore sections of the Tolt River to enhance existing salmon habitat to facilitate recovery of the listed Chinook populations. AWRA UW will be touring the restoration sites and learning about restoration techniques from a local government standpoint.

Hot Springs

AWRA UW will host a field trip to the Olympic Peninsula to enjoy our local hot springs.

Happy Hour

AWRA UW will hold happy hour events to bring new and returning members together to socialize and network.

State/National Events

AWRA National

2010 Spring Specialty Conference – GIS and Water Resources VI. Dates are March 29th-31st. Early registration ends on March 8th. The event location is Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel.

AWRA State

Canadian Water Resources Association 63rd Annual National Conference-- Information, Infrastructure & Environment: What Is Our Water Legacy? The call for abstracts is now open. The deadline to submit an abstract is January 31, 2010. For more information visit cwra.org. Dates and Location: June 15-18, 2010. Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, British Columbia.



Get the latest state chapter news at <http://earth.golder.com/WAAWRA/>

AWRA Fellowship Awardees Announced

The Washington State Section of the American Water Resources Association offers annual Fellowships of \$2,000 to full-time graduate students completing an advanced degree in an interdisciplinary water resources subject. The Washington Section's annual fellowship awards will be officially granted at the AWRA Joint Meeting between the UW Student chapter and the Washington State Professional chapter on January 20, 2010. AWRA-UW President Erin Donley and Carolyn Connelly were selected as the recipients of the 2009-2010 fellowships. Congratulations to Erin and Carolyn!

Mentoring Program

This year marks the start of an exciting new AWRA program, benefiting student and professional members. The Washington Section is hosting a Mentoring Program, pairing University students with those working in the profession. If you would like to participate in the program as either a mentor or protégé, please contact Steve Swope (steve@pgwg.com).

Students are invited to contact mentors whose professional interests align with their career goals. From there, the program is free form! We hope that students and professionals will benefit and learn from each other, and that this unstructured program will allow flexibility to meet everyone's needs.

Green Seattle Day at Ravenna Park

Heavy rains failed to deter members of the AWRA and others from lending a hand to restoration efforts at Ravenna Park on November 7, 2009. More than 30 volunteers, including students from the University of Washington, community members and the Ravenna Creek Alliance joined forces in planting native vegetation and mulching hillsides and stream banks to restore habitat and prevent erosion. The event was part of Green Seattle Day, an annual, city-wide day of action sponsored by the Green Seattle Partnership that focuses on restoring Seattle's urban forests.



Bay, was diverted into a sewer pipe to accommodate development of the University Village. In 2006, a portion of the creek that flowed into the sewer pipe was redirected into an above-ground channel. In addition to creating 650 feet of new streambed, the “daylighting” project included rehabilitation of the existing stream and native plant restoration.

Volunteers work year-round to maintain and improve habitat in Ravenna Park, holding work parties twice a month. The extra help on November 7 was appreciated by the regular volunteers who were able to accomplish all the planting they

planned for the day.

Ravenna Park is a site of ongoing restoration projects intended to improve water quality and fish habitat. Ravenna Creek, which originally flowed from Green Lake through the Ravenna Ravine and into Union

Don't want to wait until next November to get your hands dirty? Look for volunteer opportunities at Ravenna Creek and other parts of the city at <http://greenseattle.org/volunteers>

Research Highlight: Dan Nowacki



A cold day on Willapa Bay. Note sea ice!

Dan Nowacki, AWRA UW Publicity Chair, is a graduate student dually enrolled in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington. His

current research focuses on the sediment transport and geomorphology of southwest Washington's Willapa Bay, which is bounded on the seaward side by Long Beach spit. Willapa Bay contains expansive fine-grained tidal flats, which are important refuges for migratory birds, bivalves, and other wildlife. The tidal flats of the bay are accumulating sediment without an obvious local source; Dan's research focuses on the movement of sediment between flats and the channels that incise them, over both tidal and seasonal time scales. His work also examines the evolution of channel morphology. Channels in the bay are relatively

stable in the southern bay despite large erosional and depositional sediment fluxes; this work looks at the bay's dynamics over longer, decadal time scales.



A small, incised channel in Willapa Bay