

Fall conference roundup

BY GREGG GARFIN

Ever wonder where you might find a gathering of climate, weather, water, or fire-related professionals bent on discussing cutting-edge science and policy issues? CLIMAS has compiled the following small collection of conferences, workshops, talks, and symposia that touch on issues of key importance to readership in the Southwest. For other related conference listings, please visit The University of Arizona's Institute for the Study of Planet Earth's weekly bulletin at <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/news/bulletin/current.html>, Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability Digest at <http://sustainability.asu.edu/gios/news/index.htm>, and Southwest Hydrology magazine's events calendar at <http://www.swhydro.arizona.edu/calendar.html>.

Public Lecture on Water Sustainability by Dr. Peter Gleick

Date: August 30, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Audience: General public

Location: Temple Emanu-El, 225 N. Country Club, Tucson, AZ

Website: <http://www.sustainabletucson.org>

Description: Peter Gleick, a 2003 MacArthur Fellow and president of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security, will discuss water policy, environmental change, and innovative strategies for achieving sustainable water use. Gleick is an internationally renowned water expert. His research addresses connections between water, human health, climate change, sustainability, globalization, and conflicts over water resources. Sponsors of the event include Sustainable Tucson, Pima County, Arizona Hydrological Society, Southwest Hydrology, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Temple Emanu-El, The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center, and the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth.

The Fourth Symposium on Southwest Hydrometeorology

Date: September 20–21, 2007

Audience: Public and private-sector meteorologists, hydrologists, and climatologists

Location: Tucson Hilton East Hotel, 7600 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ

Website: <http://www.atmo.arizona.edu/swhs>

Description: This symposium will provide a forum to discuss and present research associated with weather systems that affect the Southwest, and to discuss the impact of these systems on regional hydrology. The symposium features technical talks and poster presentations. Symposium sessions will examine hydrometeorology, climate science and annual prediction, monsoon forecasting, extreme events, probabilistic forecasting, and quantitative precipitation estimation. Nationally recognized experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, State University of New York, and Penn State University will give plenary presentations.

Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona (Water CASA) 10th Anniversary Conference—

Conservation Unplugged

Date: September 21, 2007

Audience: Water professionals, policy and decision makers, planners, conservationists, and interested members of the general public

Location: Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, 2021 N Kinney Rd, Tucson, AZ

Website: <http://www.watercasa.org/>

Description: This event seeks to raise awareness among a broad range of audiences with a vested interest in sound water management. The conference aims to promote consistency in water management programs and policy and to foster collaborative work in water conservation in order to maximize



water resources. The conference program features invited presentations from water and energy managers, landscape architects, developers, county and state administrators, and water conservation experts; the presenters are chiefly from Arizona.

2007 Southern Regional Water Program Conference

Date: October 15–19, 2007

Audience: Cooperative Extension and other resource and water professionals

Location: Cosmopolitan Hotel, 70 North East Avenue, Fayetteville, AR

Website: <http://www.arnatural.org/water/>

Description: This conference will be of interest to cooperative extension, natural resource, and water professionals in the Río Grande River basin. The overall goal of this conference is to strengthen the capacity for natural resource professionals to develop and deliver successful water quality programs by providing an opportunity to share successful education strategies and programs, addressing current and potential water quality and other environmental issues, and by providing a forum for an exchange of ideas and information. Sessions will focus on agricultural pollution control, watershed management, and rural environmental management. The conference is hosted by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, with sponsorship by Cooperative Extension Service Water Quality programs of the 13 land-

continued on page 4



Roundup, continued

grant universities comprising the USDA's Southern Region Water Quality Program.

Ninth Biennial Conference of Research on the Colorado Plateau—Shifting Landscapes on the Colorado Plateau: the influence of climate change on natural and cultural resources

Date: October 29–November 1, 2007

Audience: Researchers, resource managers, and environmental professionals

Location: DuBois Conference Center, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

Website: http://sbsc.wr.usgs.gov/cprs/news_info/meetings/biennial/2007/index.asp

Description: This conference focuses on research and resource management efforts related to the physical, cultural, and biological resources of the southwestern United States, with a special emphasis on the Colorado Plateau. The conference will feature technical talks, sessions on special scientific and management issues, and poster presentations. Presenters include academic researchers, agency scientists, and resource managers. The conference also features a special clients day of meetings by and for conference attendees. Thematic sessions will focus on climate and ecosystem change, tribal lands, and many other topics.

American Water Resources Association 2007 Annual Conference

Date: November 12–15, 2007

Audience: Water resources professionals and researchers; some plenary talks, sessions, and discussions may be of interest to policy and decision makers

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, 1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque, NM

Website: http://www.awra.org/meetings/New_Mexico2007/index.html

Description: This conference will address an extraordinary variety of water-related topics. Conference session topics include water and energy policy, artificial recharge, storm water management, transboundary water resource

continued on page 5

Ensuring Arizona counties are drought ready



By SUSAN CRAIG, ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES; AND GREGG GARFIN, INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF PLANET EARTH

Despite spectacular summer monsoon downpours, drought continues to loom over Arizona and the Southwest. This is the case especially where water year precipitation has been below average (see page 7—current precipitation), such as the western half of Arizona, or parts of northeastern New Mexico. And, as mentioned on page 11 (AZ Reservoirs), Colorado River Basin storage is still well below average. Your input is needed to monitor and help determine how your county will prepare for and lessen the impacts of drought.

“Providing local input on drought conditions is important so that state-level drought monitoring and reporting activities can be verified against actual on-the-ground observations,” said Herb Guenther, Director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Remarkably, garnering drought impact information from newspaper reports is the national method for reporting drought impacts, aside from a few well-observed parameters, such as streamflow and reservoir level.

The Arizona Department of Water Resources’ Statewide Drought Program, in conjunction with Arizona Cooperative Extension and county emergency management, is convening Local Drought Impact Groups (LDIGs) in all counties across Arizona. Coordinated by local representatives, LDIGs are voluntary groups created to raise drought public awareness, provide impact information to local and state leaders, and initiate local mitigation and response measures.

As residents of the Southwest and northern Mexico have seen during the last ten years, drought can affect farms and ranches, forests and other vegetation, aquatic life and wildlife, and hydrology and water resources. Local monitoring of these types of impacts will be used for the LDIGs’ drought planning and preparedness efforts. Moreover, local drought impact reports, provided to Arizona’s Drought Monitoring Technical Committee (MTC), are used to improve the depiction of state and national drought status and verify drought monitoring and drought predictions. A brief summary of LDIG impact reports can be found in the monthly MTC drought status reports on the Statewide Drought Program website (<http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/drought/MTC.html>).

Professionals and ordinary citizens alike can support the LDIGs’ efforts by providing monthly feedback on drought conditions throughout their county. The LDIGs and MTC seek regular observations (e.g., monthly or quarterly) of qualitative, information on:

- Agricultural conditions (such as crop damage or the need to develop supplemental water sources);
- Livestock production (such as the need to haul water, or increased mortality);
- Aquatic impacts (such as loss of fish due to decreased flows);
- Wildlife (such as drought-related habitat degradation or lack of food and drinking water);

continued on page 5



Roundup, continued

and management issues, impacts of urbanization, water markets, climate change, floodplain management, water quality and pollution, and many other issues. Nationally and internationally recognized experts will give plenary presentations. Technical talks and moderated discussions will feature academic researchers, business and industry experts, and agency scientists.

Fifty-second Annual New Mexico Water Conference—*Beyond the Year of Water: Living Within Our Water Limitations*

Date: November 29–30, 2007

Audience: Water resources and environmental professionals, researchers, and policy and decision makers

Location: La Fonda Hotel, 100 E. San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM

Website: <http://wri.nmsu.edu/conf/conf07/conf.html>

Description: This conference features invited talks by state and federal government representatives, agency scientists, academic researchers, environmentalists, and others. The conference will cover a wide variety of timely topics, including Indian water rights settlements, demographic change and water demand, water resource economics, climate change, and legislative water issues. The conference is hosted by the Water Resources Research Institute of New Mexico State University.

Fire in the Southwest: Integrating Fire into Management of Changing Ecosystems

Date: January 28–31, 2008

Audience: Researchers; some sessions may be of interest to forest and land managers

Location: Holiday Inn Tucson Airport-North, 4550 South Palo Verde Boulevard, Tucson, AZ

Website: <http://www.humboldt.edu/swfire/index.html>

Description: This conference will provide a forum for the exchange of science

information on the ecology and management of fire and adapted and affected ecosystems in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The opening plenary session will address “Southwest Ecosystems and Fire,” and the closing plenary session will address “Implications of Climate Change for Future Fire Management.” Other sessions will touch on fire and ecological restoration, fuel management and landscape decision processes, invasive plants and fire, fire behavior, societal issues and fire management implications, and lessons learned from large Southwest fires. The conference is hosted by the Association for Fire Ecology, in association with Humboldt State University.

National Association of Environmental Professionals 2008 Conference — *Changing Climates*

Date: March 25–28, 2008

Audience: Environmental professionals, resource managers and planners, and researchers; some sessions may be of interest to educators and policy and decision makers

Location: OMNI San Diego Hotel, 675 L Street, San Diego, CA

Website: <http://www.naep.org/cde.cfm?event=158854>.

Description: This conference features talks and discussions on a variety of environmental issues related to advancement of the environmental professions, environmental planning, research, and management. Presenters include professionals from industry, government, academia, and the private sector. Sessions will feature topics such as agriculture and the environment, environmental policy, land management, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and environmental regulations, energy, environmental education, health risk assessment, and water resources.

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AZ counties, continued

- Plants and vegetation (such as tree mortality, poor leaf condition, stress); and
- Water resources (such as deepening of wells or reduced flow from springs).

Submitting feedback online takes just a couple of minutes a month, and observations can be made while on the job or on a hike.

Arizona’s online drought impacts reporting system (DIRS) can be accessed through the Arizona Flood Warning and Drought Monitoring website (<http://data.afws.org/sui/DroughtImpacts.aspx>). The DIRS is being revised to make it easier to use; the improved DIRS, expected to be completed by January 2008, will link Arizona information with the U.S. Drought Impact Reporter (<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>), which was developed by the National Drought Mitigation Center to collect, quantify, and map reported drought impacts nationally.

In addition to monitoring local impacts, LDIGs provide other opportunities for citizen participation, assist with education and outreach efforts, and recommend actions for drought mitigation and response. Arizona’s LDIGs are a unique innovation in improving drought preparedness and monitoring, and they provide a great opportunity for citizens to participate in directing drought preparedness and education in their region.

For more information on LDIGs, please visit <http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/drought/LDIG.html>. To sign up for an LDIG, please contact your local Arizona Cooperative Extension agent (<http://cals.arizona.edu/extension/directory/index.html>).

