



Wyoming Water Association

# Wyoming Water Flow

*Water Is Wyoming's Gold!*

Volume LXVIII, Issue II

June 2005

## Upcoming Summer Water Resources Education Tour to Highlight Afton and Star Valley Resources and Issues

The Wyoming Water Association's 2005 Summer Water Resources Education Tour will be held on **Friday, July 15th** in the Afton and Star Valley area of Wyoming. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m., will include lunch and will conclude by mid afternoon. A nominal fee of \$10.00 will be collected to offset our catered lunch and logistical expenses.

An annual WWA event, this year's tour will include a short hike in the Bridger-Teton National Forest to observe the world-famous intermittent Periodic Spring and a visit to the Wyoming Game and Fish wildlife viewing/management area at the upper end of Palisades Reservoir featuring numerous water control structures that keep water on the property year-round. These are just two of the stops that will make this tour interesting and a great way to learn more about Wyoming's water resources. Please plan on attending this annual summer event.

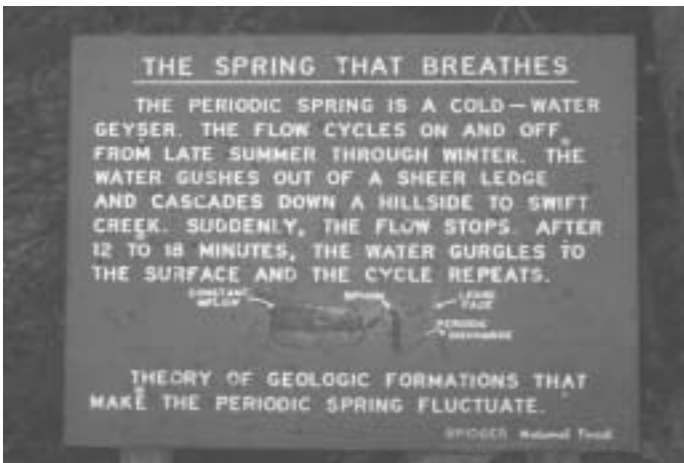
The preceding day, Thursday, July 14th will feature the Summer Board meeting beginning at 3:00 p.m. and will be followed by a WWA evening dutch

oven dinner, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Star View Park for WWA Board members, family members wishing to attend and those arriving in Afton to attend the water resources tour on the following day.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Corral Motel in Afton at favorable room rates. The block reservation is available only until July 1st -- so please call 307-885-5424 and make your hotel reservation soon.

This year's tour will get underway at 9:00 a.m. and those attending will need to convene at the Corral Motel, 161 Washington Street in Afton, at 8:30 a.m. As was the case with last year's tour, we will car-pool from point to point during this tour. However, unlike other tours, please wear comfortable hiking shoes as there is a walk of more than 1/4 mile up a Forest Service trail to view Periodic Spring. Those attending will enjoy a catered lunch in Canyon View Park. We hope many WWA members will take advantage of this informative and unique tour! RSVPs are strongly encouraged to facilitate travel and lunch arrangements.

Periodic Spring's intermittent flow is a rare geologic phenomenon and is the world's largest cold water geyser (one of three known to exist and the only one in North America). Located near the base of a limestone cliff in Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest, spring water gushes from an opening for several minutes, stops abruptly, then begins a new cycle a short time later. Midsummer water is colder, and this decrease in temperature coincides with a decrease in total dissolved solids - indicating rapid flow occurs in the Madison limestone. A portion of the spring snowmelt recharge



*U.S. Forest Service Interpretive Sign For the Periodic Spring in the Bridger-Teton National Forest Near Afton*

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### **2005 Officers of the Wyoming Water Association**

President . . . . .	Alan Dugan
1st Vice President . . . . .	Ron Cunningham
2nd Vice President . . . . .	Nick Wambeke
Treasurer . . . . .	Jack Meena
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# **Challenges Remain Along The Way**

*by John Shields, Executive Secretary*

Regardless of the path we find ourselves on, we need to remind ourselves from time to time of the adage: "first things first." This is the case with the wise use, conservation and development of Wyoming's water resources as well. Inherent to meeting this sequencing challenge is the necessity to make the important distinction between a quality decision and an effective decision. One can make a quality decision, but if there isn't commitment to it, it won't be effective. Commitment must accompany in order to make a "quality decision" effective. For example, we can recognize that managers and executives may be highly efficient working with things, but highly ineffective working with people.

Dr. Steven R. Covey, the author and leadership and organizational consultant, has written that efficiency is different in kind from effectiveness: "effectiveness" is a results word whereas "efficiency" is a methods word. Efficiency is a value applied to working with things and often has a pace associated with the work; but if you try to be efficient with people on jugular issues, you'll likely be ineffective. The distinction is thus evident that one can't deal with people as one does dealing with things; you can be efficient with things, but you need to be effective with people, particularly on issues with value judgements and viewpoints.

Dr. Covey uses the analogy of clocks and compasses in further making his point. Clocks are useful for regulating speed and are a means of assessing efficiency. A useful symbol of effectiveness is the compass, which provides the user with a sense of direction - which, in turn, relates to understanding purpose, vision, perspective, and balance.

As we consider what is the most appropriate public policy for managing our natural resources in this State, be it our water or our abundant energy & fuels resources, we need to bear in mind that quality decisions require both time and commitment. We are now approaching the completion of river basin plans for each major river basin in the State and will begin to develop a comprehensive state-wide framework water plan using the data compiled in each of the basin plans. In this venture and others, truly we must "stay the course." The absolute necessity to adhere to this principle is extremely apparent in the context of Wyoming's ongoing and vigilant efforts to protect our future ability to develop our Compact-apportioned, but as yet unappropriated, water resources.

Finally, as this column space grows limited, I get back to the title statement -- that challenges are and will always remain along the way. Difficulty of some form or another can be counted on. What remains important is working through those challenges while still staying focused on the compass and not so much on the clock, in continuing to work towards quality decisions (not the efficient or expeditious ones) that will stand the tests of time and changing needs and perspectives. Working together and staying focused on first things first, we can meet - and overcome - the challenges that are always along the way.

(continued from page 1)

moves completely through the system in a matter of weeks. This can only occur in a karstic system.

Through the years, various observers have timed the flows at anywhere from 4 to 25 minutes. At full flow, Periodic Spring discharges about 285 gallons/second into Swift Creek - and is the source of Afton's drinking water.

The first stop on the tour will be at Cottonwood Lake - and will include a presentation by Evan Simpson and Cottonwood Irrigation District representatives concerning the ongoing Wyoming Water Development Commission-funded Level II feasibility of rehabilitating the dam and enlarging Cottonwood Lake. The tour will also include a tour of the Strawberry Hydroelectric Power Plant.

The last stop on the tour will be the Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife viewing area adjacent to Highway 89 at the upper end of the Palisades Reservoir. According to information in the Sunrise Engineering firm's "Snake/Salt River Basin Plan Basin Water Use Profile - Environmental" technical memorandum dated October 11, 2002, this Wyoming Game and Fish Department-managed wildlife viewing area was designed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, with funding help from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, and the Town of Alpine.

This wetland area keeps water in the area to provide wildlife habitat year round. Without these structures, much of the waterfowl and wildlife would leave the wildlife viewing area when the reservoir level would drop and the area would become dry. A system of seven dikes was constructed, up to seven feet in height, with clay cores and gravel shells. The design called for the lower dikes to be under water when the reservoir was full, and 35 islands were placed in the created pond areas.

The water for the wetland area is diverted from Salt River, and as much as 30 cfs of water can be diverted. By creating a flow-through system, problems with mosquitoes and moss were avoided. Nearly all of the water that flows through the system returns to Palisades Reservoir. Overall, the wetland area was designed to be 50% vegetation and 50% open water.

The water levels in each pond can be adjusted using boards in the overflow structure. The end result has approximately 115 acres of surface water in the total area of 300 acres. Construction costs at the time were \$260,000. Currently, the facility is operated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, who is also the holder of the associated water rights.

**WHAT: 2005 WWA Summer Tour**  
**WHEN:** July 15, 2005 - Starting at 9:00 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Afton and Star Valley  
**COST:** \$10 per person - including catered lunch at the Canyon View Park. RSVP and pre-registration is strongly encouraged and greatly appreciated.  
**MEET AT:** Corral Motel, 161 Washington St. in Afton. Be there at 8:30 a.m. Car-pool tour.

### **2005 WWA Officers and Board Members**

- President** ..... Alan Dugan
- 1st Vice-President** ..... Ron Cunningham
- 2nd Vice-President** ..... Nick Wambeke
- Treasurer** ..... Jack Meena
- Secretary** ..... John Shields
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Jane West  
Bill Stafford  
Frank Grimes
  - Local Government* ..... Tim Wilson  
Bruce Barnard  
Robert Taylor  
Scott Schmidt

## 2005 Wyoming Water Association Scholarship Recipients Announced – Laura Marie Wilson and Nicholas Smith Win \$1 000 Education Scholarships

A total of six highly-qualified applicants competed in this year's Wyoming Water Association's 2005-2006 Academic Year Scholarship Competition. The Association is pleased to announce Laura Marie Wilson and Nicholas Smith will each be receiving \$1,000 to assist with furthering their education.



*Laura Marie Wilson*

Laura is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wilson of Cheyenne. Laura graduated from Cheyenne East High on May 28th with a 4.0 GPA over the course of her high school years. Laura was a member of the National Honor Society, was a student of the month on several occasions at East High School and member of the French and Spanish Club and DECA.

Active in her church, Ms. Wilson served as Vice President of the Young Womens Youth Group and as President for two years of the Youth Council. In addition to this, Laura is an



*Nicholas Ryan Smith*

accomplished pianist. The recipient of several scholarships, Laura has indicated she plans to attend the University of Wyoming in the Fall of 2005 where she will major in Nutrition.

Nick is the son of Loren and Teri Smith of Riverton, Wyoming. A 2001 graduate of Big Piney High School and member of the National Honor Society during his high school years, Nick is earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics (double major) at the University of Wyoming. WWA members will recognize Nick as a recipient of a WWA Student Scholarship during the 2004-2005 academic year as well.

An All-State cross country and track team member in high school, Nick competed at the collegiate level as a member of the University of Wyoming's cross country team in prior years

and still finds time for intermural athletics. He is a participant in the "My Soldier" Program and corresponds with several members of the U.S. armed forces who are in harm's way in foreign lands.

Both Laua and Nick will be invited and strongly encouraged to attend the Banquet to be held during the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Wyoming Water Association where they will be asked to read their essays concerning the topic "Identify some water conservation actions you have observed in our community or state and describe their effectiveness. The essay length is limited in the scholarship competition to 500 words. Nick's essay was titled "Water Conservation in the Green River Basin," and offered his observations regarding center pivot irrigation in that basin. Laura's essay, titled "Water, Good to the Last Drop," provided a brief but in-depth description of the mandatory water conservation measures that were instituted in her community (Cheyenne) in 2003 and the resultant reduction in water consumption city-wide. Laura also documented the year to year reduction in water consumption that occurred in the Wilson household in 2003 and 2004 from the 2002 level.

Congratulations to these two fine young people for receiving WWA's scholarships!



## Board of Control Updated Rules and Regulations Available For Downloading at SEO Website or By Request

The Wyoming Board of Control has announced that its updated Rules and Regulations are now available for no charge at the agency website: <http://seo.state.wy.us/docs.aspx>. In addition, water users who do not have access to the Internet or just prefer a hard copy or digital version to be provided can contact the Wyoming Board of Control. Contact information is as follows: Allan Cunningham, Administrator, Board of Control; phone: (307) 777-6177 or via e-mail: [acunni@seo.wyo.gov](mailto:acunni@seo.wyo.gov) or Carol Westbrook; phone (307) 777-6178 or e-mail: [cwestb@seo.wyo.gov](mailto:cwestb@seo.wyo.gov).

## Association Pleased With Response to Membership Dues Renewal Notices

The Officers and Board Members of the Wyoming Water Association are pleased to thank all of the renewing members of the Association who sent in their dues payments in response to the recent mailing of membership dues invoices.

As a reminder of how the Association deals with membership renewals, those who attend the educational seminar or annual meeting in the fall pay their annual dues at the time they register for the succeeding calendar year - hence invoices are only sent out to those who were unable to participate in all or part of the prior annual conference. The Executive Secretary was slow in getting the task done of sending out membership dues invoices this year and while this was not accomplished until April (yes, it should have been done sooner), the response rate has been excellent and deserves mention in this newsletter.

Your Executive Secretary has received some telephone calls and correspondence about membership renewals and does appreciate the patience of those who called with inquiries about membership dues and with address corrections.

Thanks to all who sat down, wrote their check and sent it in to renew their membership. We greatly appreciate your support. Members are the lifeblood of our organization!

## Reminder – Wyoming Water Association Now Has Student Membership Class and Will Provide Student Sponsorships for Conferences

As noted in prior newsletters, the General Membership of the Wyoming Water Association created a new class of membership - student membership - in the Wyoming Water Association at their October 28, 2004 business meeting. University of Wyoming or junior college students can attend full day sessions of the education seminar or annual meeting by paying only \$15.00 for each day they choose to attend. Payment of the one-day fee also provides students with full-year membership in the Association for the following year (as is the case for others attending the seminar or annual meeting).

As we look ahead to our 2005 annual conference, the education and annual meeting registration form will reflect student membership as an option. In addition and importantly, other members will have the capability to donate funds for “student sponsorship.” In order to broaden the opportunity for desiring students to participate, membership renewal forms - including the one found in this edition of the *Wyoming Water Flow* newsletter - provide the opportunity for members to make a donation, should they desire, to generate a pool of funds to help sponsor students wishing to attend the November 2-4th annual conference in Casper.

We are very pleased to note that as of this date, \$175 has been donated for student sponsorships. A big “**thank you**” is extended to **Bridger Valley Electrical Association, Wyoming Water Rights Consulting, Inc., and BRS, Inc.** for their donations!

The WWA can be sure that this action by the membership will pay great dividends to our state-wide water resources organization and to those students who take advantage of the Association’s great opportunity to learn more about Wyoming’s water. Student memberships are a great way for the Association to accomplish our objectives of promotion and education - and recognizes that the future of Wyoming’s water rests with our young adults and those who come after us to continue to resolve this State’s water issues.

## Trout Unlimited Wants Water Use Restrictions Loosened

JACKSON -- June 10, 2005 -- A trout conservation group plans to ask the Legislature to change Wyoming's water rights law to allow temporary use of water to benefit fish habitat. Trout Unlimited wants lawmakers to allow landowners to sell water rights, temporarily, to enhance "instream" flow. Instream flow rights, created by the Legislature in 1986, provide for a minimum amount of water in rivers and streams to maintain or improve fisheries. Under state law, only the state can hold such rights. Laurie Goodman, a Jackson resident and director of Trout Unlimited's Wyoming Water Project, said the law does not recognize the rights of landowners to enhance fishing on their property. Currently, a rancher can temporarily sell water rights to another rancher, who can divert the water to pastureland for cattle, she said. But that rancher cannot sell rights temporarily to a fishing outfitter who might be willing to pay more to boost stream flow and fishing opportunities.

"Is Wyoming doing the best that it can with its water?" Goodman said recently. "We have to think about it as the valuable use that it is." Allowing ranchers to temporarily sell rights for instream flows would encourage more fishery enhancements without major changes to the existing system, she said.

Since water rights holders can sell rights temporarily for agricultural, industrial or municipal needs, it seems logical to allow purchasers to use water for instream flows as well, Goodman said.

"What we're basically asking to do is to be in the game," she said. Changing the law would not only give ranchers more flexibility in managing their properties but would recognize the economic benefits of fishing to the state, she said.

Anglers pump \$5.5 million annually into Teton County's economy, according to a study funded by Trout Unlimited and the Henry's Fork Foundation. Those fishing enthusiasts have indicated a desire to spend even more if additional fishing opportunities arise, the study showed.

Under current law, if a rancher wants to enhance instream flows, he has to relinquish his water rights to the state, Goodman said. "He loses that forever," she said. "Not one landowner in Wyoming has done it. And why should they?" Allowing private citizens to temporarily purchase instream flow rights could augment the program, she said.

## The Water Planner: *Water-Related Upcoming Events and Activities of Interest*

To help inform WWA members about upcoming meetings on Wyoming's water resources, the Water Planner is included in newsletters and can be viewed on our website ([www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org)).

- **July 12** - Green River Basin Advisory Group meeting in Rock Springs. More info by contacting Barry at the Water Development Commission by phone at 777-7626 or by e-mail at: [blawre@state.wy.us](mailto:blawre@state.wy.us).
- **July 13** - Snake Salt River Basin Advisory Group meeting in Alpine. For more info contact Barry at the Water Development Commission - 777-7626.
- **July 14** - Summer Board Meeting of the **Wyoming Water Association** at the School Administration Building beginning at 3:00 p.m. Board meeting to be followed by a dutch oven cook-out for WWA Board members and guests in the Town Park at 6:00 p.m.
- **July 15** - **Summer Water Resources Education Tour** in the Afton and Star Valley Area. Tour kicks off at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Corral Motel in Afton.
- **July 20-22** - National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Western Water Seminar at the Huntley Lodge in Big Sky, Montana. More info at [www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org).
- **November 1** - Fall Board Meeting of the **Wyoming Water Association** at the Radisson Hotel in Casper beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **November 2** - 2005 **Wyoming Water Association Education Seminar** at the Radisson Hotel in Casper beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- **November 3-4** - **Wyoming Water Association Annual Meeting** at the Radisson Hotel in Casper.
- **November 9-11** - National Water Resources Association Annual Conference at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii. More info at [www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org).
- **December 14-16** - Annual Meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. More info at [www.crwua.org](http://www.crwua.org) or by calling (760) 398-2651.

### NOTICE:

In accordance with Title 17 United States Code Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for research and educational purposes.



# Wyoming Water Association 2005 Membership and Student Sponsorship Form

The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2005.

Membership Class:	Annual Membership Dues:
Student	\$15.00 (includes one-day of annual conference)
Individual	\$35.00
Small Businesses	\$50.00
Medium Businesses	\$100.00
Large Businesses	\$250.00
Associations	\$50.00
Irrigation Districts	\$0.01 per acre ... Minimum of \$50.00
Conservation Districts	\$25.00
Drainage Districts	\$50.00
Special Districts (Including water and sewer, improvement and sanitation)	\$50.00
Municipalities of 100 to 1,000 population	\$100.00
Municipalities of 1,001 to 5,000 population	\$200.00
Municipalities of 5,001 and over population	\$300.00
County Governments	\$250.00
Joint Powers Boards	\$300.00

Please fill out the short form below and return it, along with your dues payment, to the WWA today.

- Yes, please renew my Wyoming Water Association membership for the 2005 Calendar Year. I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my/our dues payment for the coming year.
- Yes, I wish to make a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for "Student Sponsorship" to assist the WWA in providing funds for students to attend our annual conference.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *If you attended the 2004 Annual Meeting and/or Educational Seminar in Casper, your registration fees included your membership dues for 2005 - and you do not need to submit this renewal form. Membership dues invoices will be sent out in early 2005 - avoid that billing by sending your payment today.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail this form and your dues payment to:*

**Wyoming Water Association, P.O. Box 21701, Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032.**

Should you have questions, please call the WWA at 307-631-0898 or e-mail to [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



## Wyoming Water Association

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Sure hope that you are planning to attend the  
**Wyoming Water Association's  
Summer Water Resources Tour:  
July 15th in Afton**

*and mark your calendar now for our*

**WWA Fall Education Seminar & Annual  
Conference: Nov. 2-4th in Casper**