

City of Alpharetta, Georgia, to Receive IWRM Award from AWRA

AWRA IS PLEASED to announce that the Webb Bridge Park Water Quality Enhancement Project of the City of Alpharetta, GA, is the 2016 winner of the association's prestigious Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Award.

The award will be presented during the Annual Awards Luncheon at AWRA's Annual Water Resources Conference, November 16, 2016, Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando.

"Alpharetta is excited to learn that our project has been recognized by the American Water Resources Association," says Jill Bazinet, senior stormwater engineer, city of Alpharetta, Public Works Department. "Using the Integrated Water Resources Management approach was vital to the project's success. Alpharetta is proud that Webb Bridge Park and its innovative stormwater projects can join past recipients and serve as an example for collaborative environmentally sustainable projects."

In 2011, following a dredging operation at Lake Windward, the Windward Community Services Association approached the city with concerns about suspended sediment leaving the park and depositing in the lake. The city's response to this inquiry included the formation of a team to address concerns, completion of a drainage study, construction of a number of innovative stormwater measures, and introduction of an education program. These items make up the key elements of the Webb Bridge Park Water Quality Enhancement Project.



Map of area affected by the Webb Bridge Park Water Quality Enhancement Project, winner of AWRA's 2016 IWRM Award.

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Neighborhood community groups, residents, city staff, scientists and designers came together to improve the environmental impacts of a large city park on the downstream creeks and ultimately on the recreational lake. The project expanded beyond the boundaries of one municipal department. It was not just a stormwater project or a parks project, it was a community project. The team sought input from neighboring property owners, recreation and parks maintenance staff, park patrons, and the Recreation Commission. By doing this, the resulting projects had wide spread support.

"Alpharetta has already adopted this planning and coordination method for other city park projects," Bazinet continues. "Studies and designs are underway to include bioretention ponds, runoff reduction, environmental education, and stream restoration throughout the city."

AWRA will also present several other awards during the November 16th Luncheon, including:

- Outstanding AWRA State Section Award: Florida State Section
- Outstanding AWRA Student Chapter Award: University of Florida Student Chapter
- Fellow Members:
 - Carol Collier
 - Michael Lilly
- Sandor C. Csallany Institutional Award for Exemplary Contributions to Water Resources: Orange County Water District ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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and must discover innovative ways to plan around these new norms. Yet I'm optimistic because we have a lot of smart minds in the water resources field, specifically at AWRA, working on these very things every day. As I look toward the future I can't help but

let the optimism win. I am excited for the future of water resources and for the role this association will play. I am thrilled to pass the gavel to our next leaders and watch them lead this group to great things. Best of luck to Rafael Frias, our incoming

President – I have no doubt he will do a stupendous job, especially with Brenda Bateman as President-elect. Thank you immensely for this rewarding experience and I hope to see many of you at the annual conference in Orlando, FL. ■

Reflections on the Past Year



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AS I PREPARED to write this, my final *Water Resources IMPACT* column, I watched Tropical Storm Hermine roll into our small coastal town in Delaware. My term seems a lot like this storm, you spend so much time in preparation and anticipation yet it so quickly passes. I have been honored to serve as president of AWRA, THE multidisciplinary water resources association. And in writing this column I am reminded of how many people I must thank, how much the AWRA team has accomplished and how my perspective on water resources has been stretched and strengthened.

I must provide my thanks to several important people before I end my tenure. Most importantly I must thank my husband, Kevin. The words “thank you” seem inadequate for the constant support he has provided and his never-ending role as my sounding board. I must also thank Jerry Kauffman, who from my first day as a graduate student encouraged me to become a member of AWRA and has enthusiastically supported my presidency. AWRA’s staff – Ken Reid, Mike Kowalski, Pat Reid, Dick Engberg, Christine McCrehin, Michael Campana and Jacque Towner – are such an amazing group of people. Although they are few, they are incredibly productive and a joy to work with. To the 2016 Board of Directors, I have appreciated your input, ideas, leadership and comradery. I especially want to thank President-elect Rafael Frias, who always graciously stepped up when I needed his help.

As I reflect back on the association’s activities this past year, I’m impressed with the extent of our accomplishments. Through the hard work and dedication of the past presidents, board members and staff, we have successfully restructured AWRA’s membership, a monumental effort spearheaded by Noel Gollehon. We have increased our number of webinars and continued our hallmark annual and specialty conferences. Through the efforts of Jim Wigington, we are strengthening both the role of science and JAWRA. With the support of many board members, AWRA has been represented at numerous state section meetings and we continue to strengthen those state section relationships. Brenda Bateman has finalized the details of our second annual AWRA National Leadership Institute. We have transitioned *Water Resources IMPACT* to its exciting new format through the hard work and dedication of many staff and board members, most

notably Christine McCrehin, Lisa Beutler and Michael Campana. And hats off to Eric Fitch, whose service and dedication to the magazine have made it a valuable water resources publication.

Through my role as president I have also gained a much broader perspective of water resources. I was given the opportunity to learn about water resource topics and issues throughout the nation, firsthand, in such amazing places as Raleigh, NC; Anchorage, AK; Savannah, GA; Butte, MT and in the mid-Atlantic region in my home state of Delaware. I met and connected with so many of our amazing national members (professionals and students) and state section members. I learned immensely and broadened my perspective of water resources through each one of these visits.

Serving in this role has also given me the opportunity to look at water resource events and issues from a broader perspective. As I spoke to water resource professionals and students in different places and about different water resource topics, I observed the consistent concern that what were once extreme events have become the local norm. No matter where I went or what topics were being discussed, a constant was the discussion of extreme events and the increase in these types of events. In some areas of the country it is demonstrated in increased flooding events, while in other areas it is persistent water supply shortage, increased wildfires or low flows due to decreased snowfalls. Just a few weeks ago the USGS released the finding that July 2016 was the hottest on record. Over the past several months, we have seen events such as the extreme flooding in Louisiana, Texas and Maryland; persistent drought in California; and severely depleted reservoirs in the southeastern United States. Wherever you may call home, extreme events are becoming more common and the future more uncertain, which greatly impacts our water resources and our communities.

I watch my boys (6, 5 and 3) brace themselves against the force of Hermine’s winds. They run along the surf of the Atlantic Ocean. They wade through the rising Delaware Bay waters that have obscured the boundary between land and water. As I watch them I can’t help but feel both concerned and optimistic about the future of water resources. I am concerned because we have a lot of work to do

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