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Water Current

New Equipment Enhances Water Sciences Laboratory's Research Capabilities

by Steve Ress

Direct push sampling technology and state-of-the-art liquid chromatography combined with mass spectrometry are enhancing the University of Nebraska Water Sciences Laboratory's capabilities to sample and quantify difficult to detect water contaminants.

Earlier this year, the WSL acquired a direct-push (or DP) sampler from Geoprobe Systems of Salina, KS. Though DP technology isn't new, its use to supplement or replace traditional drilling methods has not been widespread in Nebraska.

"As far as is known, the WSLs probe is the only direct push unit in the state," said WSL field manager Mark Burbach.



Research technician Jeff Toavs and field manager Mark Burbach examine the University of Nebraska Water Sciences Laboratory's new 'Geoprobe' direct-push sampling probe. The unit is the first of its kind in Nebraska (photo: Steve Ress).

Rather than drilling, DP systems use hydraulic force and percussion to advance a wide range of small diameter sampling and monitoring tools.

The WSL's unit is self-contained, has its' own gas engine power source and slides neatly into the bed of a pickup truck.

With the unit mounted on a four-wheel-drive truck, we have considerable mobility and ease of transport. The WSLs probe will be used to perform soil core and soil gas sampling, groundwater sampling, soil conductivity and geologic logging, grouting and materials injection.

"We can collect subsurface samples more quickly, efficiently and accurately than with conventional drilling methods. It also eliminates expenses associated with monitoring well construction and permits," Burbach said.

DP limitations include sampling depth, diameter of the monitoring tools that can be used and sensitivity to certain soil compositions, such as rocky soils. They are typically used to depths of 60 feet, though probing to 100 feet is possible under the right conditions.

Samples collected by the probe have already been used to help define temporal changes in a plume of munition-related contamination beneath the Capital Heights subdivision in Grand Island for the Central Platte Natural Resources District (NRD).

Soil conductivity logs, permanent monitoring wells and collection of soil cores for the Lewis and Clark NRD (in northeast Nebraska) have also been accomplished with the probe this fall, said Burbach.

"We will use it to collect samples to determine the impact of changed nitrogen management practices within the Central Blue Valley HUA; as well as soil

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USGS/NIWR Cooperation, Joint Programming Increasing; NRI Budget Reductions

from the DIRECTOR



Bob G. Volk

I recently attended two excellent conferences. The Nebraska Water Resources Association and the Nebraska State Irrigation Association combined to sponsor a conference on "Water for Sale" in Grand Island the first two days in December. Many adjacent states have laws allowing the sale of water rights and speakers told of the

advantages and disadvantages of these laws. The topic was of great interest and the meeting room was overflowing.

Another conference and workshop at Oakbrook IL, co-sponsored by many public agencies and private companies, was organized by the Groundwater Foundation. A workshop highlighted the many activities that communities sponsor to help protect their groundwater resources. The foundation's Groundwater Guardian program now has 125 communities involved across the country and is growing rapidly. Thirteen of these are Nebraska communities. If you would like information on how to get your community involved please contact the Groundwater Foundation at (402) 434-2740. The resource materials available to member communities are of excellent quality.

On a trip to Washington D.C. to attend a Board of Directors meeting for the National Institutes of Water Resources (NIWR), I had the opportunity to meet with officials of

the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and with budget examiners and came away with the distinct impression that cooperation and joint research programs are increasing between the USGS and the Institutes. This is good news in times of budget problems. We again will have a \$800,000 competitive grants regional research program.

Unfortunately, the Water Sciences Center is having its budget reduced by 29% from the Nebraska Research Initiative. These funds were to be used to support research on bioremediation of contaminated soils and water - especially on research related to ways to reduce nitrate contamination of our drinking water, research on the conjunctive use of water, and research on small community drinking water (disinfection) and waste water systems (use of constructed wetlands and improved septic tank systems). We have tried hard to impress upon administration that water is Nebraska's number one resource next to its people and we must continue a vigorous research and education program to protect our water resources.

Water Current

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27th Water Conference Begins Three-Year Look at "Nebraska Water 2000"

by Steve Ress

The 27th Annual Nebraska Water Conference begins a three-year look at the future of Nebraska water.

"The theme for our next three water conferences will be "Nebraska Water 2000,"" said organizer Bob Kuzelka of the Nebraska Water Conference Council.

The 1998 conference will be at Kearney's Regency Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) Mar. 9-11. It will focus on "Information for the Future." The conference continues in 1999 and 2000 under respective titles of "Planning for the Future" and "Management for the Future."

"Each year the conference will include a general discussion of the topic and specifics of Nebraska water," said Kuzelka, Assistant to the Director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Water Center/Environmental Programs. Speakers will come from within and outside of the state.

1998 conference planning includes a feature forum on water issues for Nebraska's gubernatorial candidates on the final day of the conference, Wednesday, Mar. 11.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. Monday, Mar. 9 and a reception is planned at the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney from 7 to 8 p.m.

On Tuesday, Mar. 10, early risers can take advantage of a 5:30 a.m.

Sandhill Crane viewing expedition to the nearby Platte River.

University of Nebraska-Kearney Chancellor Gladys Style Johnson welcomes conference attendees at 8:30 a.m., followed by the keynote address by Dan Beard, vice president in charge of public policy for the Audubon Society, at 8:45 a.m. A specially created audio-visual presentation on Nebraska rivers and water assets will then be shown.

Tuesday morning's first session focuses on physical information, such as hydrology, geomorphology and alterations through uses such as irrigation, municipal use and instream flow.

Tuesday afternoon's second session focuses on biological information, including flora and fauna, with presentation on specific and unique Nebraska ecosystems.

Session three, also on Tuesday afternoon, looks into human responses with an overview emphasizing legalities. This will be followed by presentations on Nebraska's political, economic and social situations by Lincoln attorneys Rod Confer and former Governor Robert Crosby.

The conference's annual awards banquet is at 6 p.m. Tuesday, with entertainment by the UNK "Nebraskats."

Gov. E. Benjamin Nelson has

been invited to begin the final day of the conference on Wednesday, Mar. 11 with a breakfast presentation. Session four then addresses information uses at the basin level. During the next three years each river basin in Nebraska will be examined. The 1998 conference opens with looks at the Niobrara Basin, the Platte Basin and the Republican Basin, each of which will put opposing points of view in perspective.

Optional post conference events include a tour of the South Loup River and Funk Lagoon and Kearney's Cottonmill Park and the neighboring Nebraska Public Power District hydroelectric plant restoration adjoining the UNK campus.

For more information, contact: Bob Kuzelka, Water Center/Environmental Programs, 103 Natural Resources Hall, P.O. Box 830844, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0844 or phone (402)472-3305.

The conference is sponsored by the Nebraska Water Conference Council, Nebraska Department of Water Resources, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Conservation and Survey Division, Water Center/Environmental Programs, School of Natural Resource Sciences, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Information for the Future

Annual Seminar to Examine "Interrelationship of Water, Native Grasslands and Wetlands"

Nebraska's historic vegetation, landscape and prairie climate will be examined in the coming 1998 Water Resources Seminar at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Seminars in the annual series will be presented each Wednesday at 3 p.m. from Jan. 14 to April 29 (except March 11 and 25) in Room 116, L.W. Chase Hall on the UNL East Campus.

The "Interrelationship of Water, Native Grasslands and Wetlands" includes sessions introducing "Nebraska's historic vegetation, landscape dynamics and prairie climate," according to seminar organizer Bob Kuzelka, Assistant to the director, UNL Water Center/Environmental Programs.

"Additional sessions will explore riverine grasslands as habitat, ecology of grasslands, the Sandhills and Nebraska wetlands," Kuzelka said.

Seminars will be presented by UNL and UNK faculty and graduate students and outside speakers. The list includes UNL faculty Robert Kaul, Jim Stubbendieck, Ed Harvey, Ken Hubbard, Ken Vogel, Jerry Volesky, Ezekiel Bahar and Kuzelka and UNK faculty Charles Bicak, who will deliver the annual Williams lecture.

Other speakers include Jon Kusler, Executive

Director of the Association of Wetlands Managers; Ted LaGrange of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission; Jim Locklear of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and Russ Benedict of the University of Nebraska State Museum.

The seminar is open as a free lecture series to all university faculty, staff and students and to the public. It may also be taken for one hour of undergraduate or graduate credit in the Department of Geosciences or School of Natural Resource Sciences.

Detailed schedules of session topics and speakers and course requirements are available by contacting Kuzelka at (402)472-7527 or writing: Water Resources Seminar, 103 Natural Resources Hall, P.O. Box 830844, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583-0844.

Those unable to attend the seminar on the UNL campus can take advantage of a distance learning option, where VCR tapes will be available. For more information on this option, phone (402)472-7909 or 1-800-755-7765.

The seminar is organized and presented by UNL's Center for Grasslands Studies, School of Natural Resource Sciences, Water Center/Environmental Programs, NU's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and UNL.

Pesticide Container Recycling Hits Six Year Peak

By Steve Ress

Shipping pallets, parking lot bumpers and fence posts made from recycled plastic have special meaning to Larry Schulze, not so much for the products themselves, but because of the materials that go into them.

For six years the NU Water Center/Environmental Programs Extension Pesticide Coordinator has coordinated an ever-expanding program to collect and recycle plastic containers.

In just six years the number of 1 and 2.5 gallon containers recycled annually has multiplied from 20,000 to more than 117,000.

"When we started the program in 1992, we had just two inspection and collection sites. We finished 1997 with a record number of 54 sites in 28 counties," he said.

Containers collected this year, represent 85,714 lbs. of recyclable

plastic. Those figures double 1996's efforts, when 54,795 containers, or 40,000 pounds of plastic, were recycled.

Schulze credits the marked increase to growing awareness of the program, the increasing number of collection sites and "The initiative and cooperation of NU extension educators and local volunteers who encourage local businesses and individuals to participate as a recycling site."

Recycling sites are located throughout Nebraska, from

Antelope to Washington County. Many of them are cooperatives, local grain companies, recycling centers, extension offices or agri-chemical dealers.

(Continued on page 5)



Steve Pizzatola of Tri-Rinse Inc., of St. Louis, MO (left) inspects empty pesticide containers before handing them to a coworker for grinding at a collection site in Elmwood. The NU Cooperative Extension program recycled more than 117,000 pesticide containers this year (photo: Steve Ress).

Pesticide Container Recycling Hits Six Year Peak

(continued from page 4)

"It is equally important if a site collects five containers or 5,000, as each container recycled represents one less that might otherwise be carelessly or improperly disposed of," said Schulze.

Several trade organizations, including the Agricultural Container Research Council, have helped make the program a success, along with help from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Another active player is Tri-Rinse, Inc. of St. Louis, MO which provides second inspections of rinsed containers and does the actual grinding of

containers at collection sites.

Ground containers are later turned into such products as new pesticide containers, plastic fence posts, parking lot bumpers, aircraft wheel chocks and traffic lane markers.

"This is another great example of how extension educators, working closely with their communities, farmers and agri-chemical dealers, have helped develop a program that is significantly reducing the number of potentially hazardous containers that might be improperly stored or disposed of," said Schulze.

Environmental Decision Making Conference

Urban sprawl, air pollution, declining water quality and global warming are environmental problems confronting the world and represent some of the challenges that will be addressed at the National Conference on Environmental Decision Making, May 3-6, 1998 at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Conference session topics will focus on community decision making, communicating scientific information to stakeholders, closing the gap between research and environmental decision making, risk-based decision making in the environmental arena and partnering for better environmental decisions, among many others.

MidAmerica GIS Symposium Comes to Cornhusker Hotel in May

The MidAmerica GIS Symposium will be at Lincoln's Cornhusker Hotel and Burnham Yates Conference Center May 4-7, 1998.

The symposium is sponsored by the MidAmerica GIS Consortium, Ltd.

For registration information and

additional information on the symposium, contact James W. Merchant, Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska, 113 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0517 or phone (402) 472-7531 (email jm1000@tan.unl.edu).

Symposium Proceedings Available from Great Plains Foundation

A number of symposium proceedings related to the Ogallala Aquifer are available at nominal cost from The Great Plains Foundation in Overland Park, KS.

The Great Plains Symposium 1997: The Ogallala Aquifer, Managing for Drought and Climate Change, edited by Lori L. Triplett, October 1997 (\$20).

The Great Plains Symposium 1996: The Ogallala Aquifer, Sharing the Knowledge, edited by Cathy Bruce

and Triplett, December 1996 (\$20).

The Great Plains Symposium 1995: The Ogallala Aquifer, Framework for the Future, edited by Triplett, June 1995 (\$15).

The Great Plains Symposium 1995: The Ogallala Aquifer, edited by Triplett, March 1995 (\$15).

To obtain copies of any of these proceedings, contact GPF Director Triplett at 9008 Hadley, Overland Park, KS 66212 or phone (913) 381-2666.

Audubon Launches State Office

In a restructuring move for the coming century, the National Audubon Society has opened its first state office in downtown Lincoln's Haymarket district.

State offices are being established by NAS' board of directors to help form and attain society goals through increased local control and leadership.

Due to the importance of the Platte, Niobrara and Missouri Rivers, Nebraska was chosen as the first state to open an office. Nebraska chapter leaders identified their mission for the new office "To enhance human health and happiness by involving all Nebraskans in the conservation of birds and wildlife, especially as members of the chapters of the National Audubon Society."

Priorities of the new state office include:

1. Education: Recognizing that education is the best route to sustainable development and wildlife conservation. "Through education, more and more Nebraskans can come to understand and appreciate our unique and outstanding natural heritage. Eventually, when our public officials realize a large majority of Nebraskans share this appreciation, they will then manage our precious resources accordingly," said State Director Dave Sands.

2. Other top priorities for Audubon Nebraska are chapter development, conservation advocacy, fundraising and formation of a stewardship council.

The Nebraska office will interact with public officials, develop media and public relations programs, coordinate grassroots responses to state issues and educate the public on conservation issues, he said.

The Nebraska state office is at 140 N. 8th St., Suite 217, Lincoln, NE 68508. Phone (402) 475-1177.

(Editor's note: portions of this article were excerpted from a cover story in Audubon Nebraska Journal, Volume 1, Number 1, Fall 1997).



Water News Briefs

Tips on Home Conservation

Here are some tips for in and around the house that will conserve water and natural resources, and save you money.

Water Savers

Fill a pitcher with tap water and put in the refrigerator rather than running the tap every time you want a drink.

Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or the microwave instead of running water over it.

Check faucets, toilets and pipes for leaks.

Use phosphate-free detergents.

Choose natural cleansers, such as borax, ammonia, vinegar or baking soda.

When washing dishes by hand, use two basins, one for washing, the other for rinsing, rather than letting the water run.

Insulate your water heater and all hot water pipes, less water will be wasted before hot water begins to flow.

Recycle water from fish tanks by using it to water plants. Fish emulsion is a good, inexpensive fertilizer, high in nitrogen and phosphorous.

Build a compost pile instead of using your garbage disposal.

Around the House

Use rechargeable batteries.

Choose organic paint and natural finishes, such as wax and organic wood stains and natural preservatives.

Support wetland preservation. These areas help maintain clean water.

Urge local officials to implement a wellhead protection program if your community relies on groundwater.

Support plans to improve your community's water system, sewage system or waste disposal landfills.

Appeal to political figures to enforce regulations regarding the dumping of hazardous wastes.

Have any abandoned wells on your property sealed by a licensed contractor.

Replace any underground storage tanks on your property with above ground storage.

Have septic systems pumped out every one to three years by a qualified plumber.

Useful Resources

A Global Decline in Microbiological Safety of Water: A Call for Action (American Academy of Microbiology, 1996). A report on a colloquium convened by the Academy in Guayaquil, Ecuador in April 1995. "Control of water borne disease is dependent on education at every level..." Available free from the Academy by phoning (202) 942-9227.

Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey (EPA, 1997 EPA812-R-97-001). A survey of the costs to community water systems of complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Community Water System Survey (two volumes, EPA, 1997, EPA815-R-97-001A and 001B). A survey of drinking water systems, their sources of water treatment methods and financial conditions. Available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Valuing Groundwater: Economic Concepts and Approaches (National Research Council, 1997). Examines approaches for assessing the economic value of groundwater and the costs of contaminating or depleting this resource. Provides a framework for evaluating tradeoffs when there are competing uses for groundwater. Available from the

National Academy Press at 1-800-624-6262.

Protecting the Source: Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water (Trust for Public Land, 1997). Reviews efforts to protect sources of drinking water through watershed protection and land use planning. Available from the trust at 1-800-714-LAND.

National Water Quality News. A new quarterly newsletter published by the Freshwater Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, which links science and policy by communicating up-to-date research results to policy makers and the public. Available from the Freshwater Foundation by phoning (612) 471-9773.

Source Water Protection Conference Coming to Dallas in April

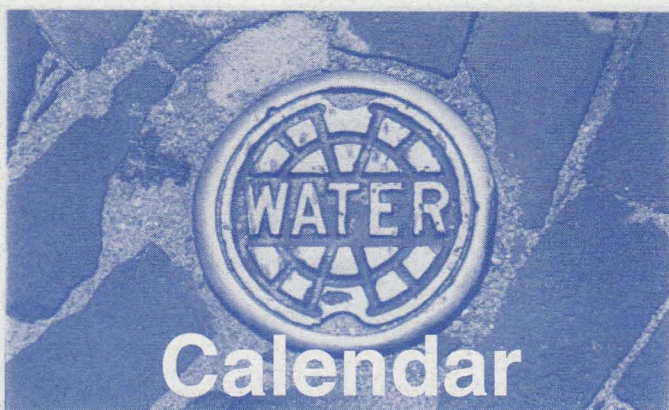
Wellhead and source water protection will be the focus of an April, 1998 conference in Dallas, TX.

The National Water Research Institute, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Geological Survey, will convene "The Source Water Protection International 98 Conference" at the DoubleTree Hotel at Campbell Centre, Dallas, TX, April 28-30, 1998.

The three-day technical conference will address the following themes:

- Delineation of Source Water Protection and Wellhead Protection Areas.
- Monitoring in Source Water Protection Areas.
- Data Management and Use.
- Source Water and Wellhead Protection Program effectiveness.

For more information on the conference, contact the National Water Research Institute, Source Water Protection International 98, 10500 Ellis Ave., P.O. Box 20865, Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0865 or email NWRI-1@worldnet.att.net.



DECEMBER

8-9: Joint Four States Irrigation Council/Upper Missouri Water Users Association meeting, Rapid City, SD. For information, contact Don Schepler, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District at (308) 995-8601 or FAX (308) 995-5705.

10: "Strategies for Urban Wet Weather Management" satellite videoconference. For information, contact Shirley Calandra at (816) 472-6100 ext. 3511.

16: Agronomy Highlights, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. Contact Alex Martin (402)472-1527.

JANUARY

12-14: Nebraska Turfgrass Conference. Contact Roch Gaussoin at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (402)472-2854.

14: Water Resources Seminar, "The Natural Vegetation of Nebraska," Robert Kaul, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus, (402)472-3305.

20-21: Urban Pest Management Conference, Clifford Hardin Center, Lincoln. Contact Dave Keith (402)472-2123.

21: Water Resources Seminar, "Nebraska's Dynamic Natural Landscape: A Photographic Study," Jim Stubbendieck, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

26-28: Reducing nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment, pesticides and bacteria reaching streams and lakes and the technology behind buffers is the subject of the National Buffer Technology Conference in San Antonio, TX. The conference is January 26-28. Call (765) 494-9555 to get on the mailing list or access the CTIC web site at <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu> for more information.

27-28: Nebraska Microcomputers in Agriculture Conference, Ramada Inn, Kearney. Contact Jim Emal (402)472-5630.

28: Water Resources Seminar, "Climate of Grasslands," Ken Hubbard, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

FEBRUARY

4: Water Resources Seminar, "Characteristics of Lowland Grasses, with an Emphasis on Sandhill Crane Use of these Habitats Along the Platte River," Tammy Vercautereen, Rm 116 L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

11: Water Resources Seminar, "Grassland Mammal and Bird Habitat," Russ Benedict, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

12-13: 101st Annual Convention and Industry Show, Nebraska Grain and Feed Association, Mid-Town Holiday Inn, Grand Island. Contact Ron Ziggafos (402)476-6174.

18: Water Resources Seminar, "The Ecology of the Colorado Bursage," Jim Locklear, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

26: North Platte Basin Water Policy Conference, Scottsbluff. Contact

C. Dean Yonts ((308)632-1246.

MARCH

4: Water Resources Seminar, "Plant Germplasm Resources of the North American Tallgrass Prairie," Ken Vogel, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

9-11: 27th Annual Nebraska Water Conference, "Nebraska Water 2000 - Information for the Future," Regency Inn, Kearney. Contact Bob Kuzelka or Tricia Liedle for advance registration information at (402)472-3305.

11-12: The Great Plains Foundation conference, "The Value of Water," Lubbock, TX. For additional information, contact Lori L. Triplett at (913) 385-7775.

11-17: Xth World Water Congress, Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Australia. "Sharing the Waters of the Earth," and "Sustainable Water Management in a New Millennium." Contact Lisa Mcaught, ICMS Pty Ltd, 84 Queensbridge Street, Southbank, Victoria, Australia 3006. Phone +61 3 9682 0244 or email worldwater@icms.com.au

18: Water Resources Seminar, "Hydrology of the Sand Hills," Ed Harvey, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

27: Earth Wellness Festival, Southeast Community College, Lincoln. Contact Soni Ericksen (402)441-7180.

APRIL

1: Water Resources Seminar, "Wetlands Assessment Methods," Jon Kusler, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

8: Water Resources Seminar, "Sub-irrigated Meadow Management Practices," Jerry Volesky, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

15: Water Resources Seminar, "Sand Hills Wetland Coalition," Gene Mack or Nebraska Game and Parks Commission wetlands research, Gerry Steinauer, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus, (402)472-3305.

22: Water Resources Seminar, "Electromagnetic Remote Sensing of the Wetlands," Ezekiel Bahar, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

28-30: The Source Water Protection International 98 Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Campbell Centre, Dallas, TX. Contact the National Water Research Institute, Source Water Protection International 98, 10500 Ellis Ave., P.O. Box 20865, Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0865 or email NWRI-1@worldnet.att.net.

29: Water Resources Seminar, "Creation of a Wetlands Park," Bob Kuzelka and graduate students, Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall, UNL East Campus (402)472-3305.

MAY

3-6: National Conference on Environmental Decision Making, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Direct inquiries to UT Conferences, Attn: NCEDR Conference, P.O. Box 2648, 600 Henley St., Suite 212, Knoxville, TN 37901-2648 or call (423) 974-0280 or email Conferences@gateway.ce.utk.edu.

"Interrelationship of Water, Native Grasslands and Wetlands"

*The 1998 University of Nebraska
Water Resources Seminar*

*Weekly public lectures from Jan. 14 through April 29
(except March 11 and 25)*

*Wednesdays at 3 p.m., Rm 116, L.W. Chase Hall,
UNL East Campus, Lincoln*

*For a schedule of seminar topics
and speakers, phone: (402)472-3305*

*Also available on VCR tapes for
UNL Continuing Education credit, phone:
1-800-755-7765*

UNL Faculty Bring Home ASAE Educational Blue Ribbons

University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty members brought home blue ribbon awards for innovative and high-quality publications and educational aids in this year's ASAE judging competition.

ASAE, "The Society for engineering in agricultural, food and biological systems," is a professional society dedicated to research, teaching and extension in agricultural engineering.

ASAE conducts an annual educational aids competition at their meetings.

Judging was divided into several areas, including films, satellite conferences, videotapes, slide sets or overhead transparency; extension methods, models or instructive displays; computer programs; web pages and in the following publication areas: fact sheets, circulars, bulletins/manuals, and periodicals/newsletters.

UNL Surface water engineer Tom Franti earned a total of three blue ribbons in the publication fact sheet, web page and bulletins/manuals categories.

Franti's fact sheet entry was "Bio-engineering for Hillslope, Streambank, and Lakeshore Erosion Control."

His blue ribbon bulletin/manual entry was co-authored with UNL soil environmental chemist Steve Comfort and is titled "Pesticide Run-off and Water Quality in Nebraska." Franti's third blue ribbon was for the

Platte Watershed Program Internet web page (located at <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/pwp/>).

Extension agricultural engineer Norm Klocke, of UNL's West Central Research and Extension Center at North Platte, also brought home a blue ribbon in bulletin/manual competition for "Nebraska Soybean Field Guide." Contributing authors were extension crops specialist Roger Elmore, extension agricultural engineer Robert Grisso, extension soils specialist Gary Hergert, associate professor of Entomology Leon Higley, Nebraska Soybean Board executive directory Mark Holoubek, Entomology graduate research assistant Tom Hunt, extension marketing and policy specialist Jim Kendrick, extension soils specialist Charles Shapiro, extension agricultural engineer David Shelton, Nebraska soybean producer Roy Smith, extension entomologist John Witkowski and extension plant pathologist David Wysong.

Several other UNL faculty also entered the annual competition, which was held in Minneapolis, MN.

Listed publications can be obtained at no charge by contacting the Water Center/Environmental Programs, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, P.O. Box 830844, Lincoln, NE 68583-0844 or calling (402) 472-3305.

New Equipment Enhances Water Sciences Laboratory's Research Capabilities

(continued from page 1)

core samples in the wellhead protection areas within the Oak Creek watershed for the Lower Platte South NRD," said Burbach.

Helping analyze samples collected by the probe is a newly installed Finnigan LCQ mass spectrometer.

The LCQ "Has greatly increased sensitivity in detecting several mobile compounds that can be difficult to detect," said WSL Director Dr. Roy Spalding.

It works by detecting ions produced by electrostatically charged compounds after they are separated by high-pressure liquid chromatography, said WSL separations chemist David Cassada. Cassada is successfully detecting munition-related compounds such as RDX and HMX in groundwater at much lower levels than were previously possible, Spalding said.

Cassada said the WSL's new Finnigan LCQ is currently one of only two such units in Nebraska.

"The Geoprobe and LCQ together will significantly enhance our ability to sample, confirm the presence of and analyze a very wide spectrum of difficult-to-detect contaminants," said Spalding.

The Nebraska Research Initiative, NU's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) and the WSL provided funding for the new instruments.

WATER CENTER/ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

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