



## Tennessee Chapter - American Water Resources Association

2003 Newsletter - December

Are you coming to the conference?



### Fourteenth Tennessee Water Resources Symposium

March 31 - April 2, 2004

Where?

Montgomery Bell State Park  
Burns, TN 37029

### Nominations Sought for Significant Contributions to Water Resources in Tennessee

The Tennessee Chapter of AWRA is seeking nominations for the first annual award to recognize an individual who has made significant contributions to enhance the quality of water resources in Tennessee. Examples of significant contributions include educational contributions towards water resources, scientific advances that improve the understanding of water resources, and several years of dedicated service to the Tennessee Chapter of AWRA. All nominees must be a past or present member of the Tennessee Chapter. Remember, if you attended a conference, you were registered as a member!

The Awards Committee will select one candidate from the nominations and will present the award at the annual business meeting held during the 2004 Symposium. Instructions and nomination forms can be downloaded at <http://tnawra.er.usgs.gov/>.

All nominations must be received by February 10, 2004.

### Conference Keynote Speaker...

**Keynote Speaker:** George William Sherk, D.Sc., J.D., author of *Dividing the Waters: The Resolution of Interstate Water Conflicts in the United States* International and National Water Law and Policy.

Dr. Sherk is Director of Redevelopment Programs for Pickering Environmental Consultants, Inc. in Memphis. In addition, he maintains a limited natural resources and environmental law practice. He received his D.Sc. from the School of Engineering and Applied Science at The George Washington University after completing undergraduate and graduate studies at Colorado State University. He received his J.D. from the University of Denver. He has been in the private practice of law since 1990 after having served as a Trial Attorney with the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He has also served as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Wyoming College of Law and as a Visiting Professor at Georgia State University. At the present time, he is a member of the associate faculty of the International Water Law Research Institute at the University of Dundee in Scotland.



The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is using a watershed approach to address water quality. In order to provide an opportunity for the public to become involved, the approach includes a public meeting to review the draft Watershed Water Quality Management Plan for each watershed.

The first five-year watershed management cycle is complete for Group 2 Watersheds. Meeting dates for the fall of 2003 have been set to discuss watershed-specific plans, which can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/wsmplans/index>.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become very useful tools in managing environmental resources, particularly water quality data. The State of Tennessee's Division of Water Pollution Control has been working closely with EPA and its contractors to produce more user friendly GIS tools for managing data and water resources. These tools have helped the State of Tennessee create its 303(d) list of impaired streams and produce the 305(b) status of water quality report. TDEC is now taking this technology and using it to provide information to other agencies and the public.

In 2002, TDEC produced a draft 303(d) list and submitted it for review and comment. The main complaint from staff and the public was that it was difficult to determine where listed streams were located in the state. To resolve this problem, TDEC entered into a contract with the University of Memphis Groundwater Institute to produce an Internet product to aid in locating these streams. The Groundwater Institute developed an application using Arc-IMS that allows online GIS review of TDEC's stream assessments ([http://gwidc.gwi.memphis.edu/website/wpc\\_arcmap](http://gwidc.gwi.memphis.edu/website/wpc_arcmap)). This has been extremely helpful to both the public and department staff to locate impaired stream information. This application is easy to update reflecting the most recent stream assessments. It also allows for more information from the ADB to be shared. Basic information on the stream assessment and segment description are included with the coverages. TDEC hopes in the future to further develop and refine this site by adding more data and making it more user friendly.