

Water Quality Update

OK Comprehensive Wetlands Plan

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) has recently announced a series of public meetings to present a revised version of *Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation Plan*. The plan was developed by OCC as directed by the state legislature in 1990.

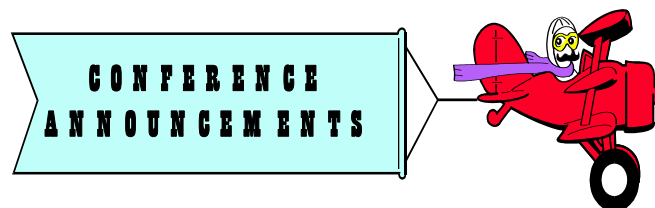
The revised plan incorporates suggestions and comments produced at an earlier series of public meetings in the Fall of 1994.

According to a statement by Mason Mungle, OCC's Executive Director, the public meetings are intended as a "forum for citizens to come and learn about and participate in a discussion of a state comprehensive wetland strategy for Oklahoma, focusing on the cooperative partnership required to achieve wetland conservation."

Each Conservation District office has a copy of the plan for viewing.

The remaining public meetings are as follows:

Date 📅	City	Time ⌚	Location
April 10	Idabel	6:30 p.m.	Kiamichi Area Votech Highway 70 North
April 11	Ada	6:30 p.m.	OSU Extension Center 1600 N. Broadway
April 17	Guymon	6:30 p.m.	Family Enrichment Center Methodist Church 6th & Quinn Street
April 18	Enid	6:30 p.m.	Autry Technical Center 1201 W. Willow
April 30	Tulsa	6:30 p.m.	Tulsa County OSU Extension Center 4116 E., 15th Street



OK Section of AWRA Annual Meeting

Would you like the opportunity to network and collaborate with water professionals from all over the state?

The Oklahoma Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) has just what you are looking for! This new organization offers researchers, teachers, field investigators, agriculturists, conservationists, and environmentalists a forum to meet and work together on technical, sociological, and even political issues.

The First Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Section of AWRA will be held Monday, May 20, 1996, at MetroVoTech in Oklahoma City. Come see what the state section is all about.

The meeting promises to be interesting and informative. It is scheduled to run from 10 - 2 and will include:

- ◆ A poster session on any topic of water resources work or research
- ◆ Chuck Doswell, of the National Severe Storms Research Lab as keynote speaker
- ◆ Lunch

Both members and non-members are invited and encouraged to submit posters and attend the meeting.

Contact Hannah Barbara Fulton at (405) 744-56523 for further information.

-adapted from *The Oklahoma Section Report*, Vol. 1(3)

Governor's Conference on the Environment

The Third Annual Governor's Conference on the Environment will be held April 24-25, 1996, at the Oklahoma City Marriott. It is designed to focus on seeking environmental solutions through partnerships, new technologies, and successful strategies.

The conference will offer sessions on international trade opportunities, benefiting from citizen advisory panels and public/private partnerships, pollution prevention, oil and gas environmental activities,

county and local government issues, accessing local, state and federal government programs, and roundtable discussions.

A special Governor's Reception will be held the evening of April 24, 1996, to honor the recipients of the 1996 Governor's Environmental Achievement Award. Governor Keating will present the awards and open the Governor's Hall of Achievement to highlight the programs, projects, and individuals selected as winners.

Garrey Carruthers, Chairman of the Advancement of Sound Science Coalition, will be this year's keynote speaker. Carruthers will address the role of sound science in public policy making.

Registration for the two day conference is \$75.00, which includes all conference materials, official conference program, refreshment breaks, two luncheons, and tickets for the Governor's Reception.

For more information, or to register, contact Kelley Smith, Conference Coordinator, at (405) 530-8995.

-adapted from *OSE Update*, Vol. 3(2)

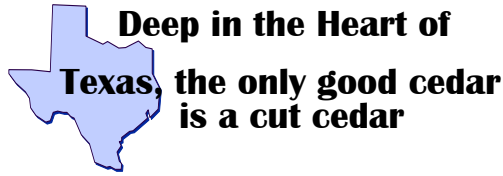
Arkansas Water Resource Research

On April 22-23, 1996, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, will host a conference entitled the "Diversity of Arkansas Water Resource Research".

The conference opens with a short course on "Water Quality Monitoring Design and Statistical Analysis for Nonpoint Source Pollution Studies," presented by Jean Spooner of North Carolina State University.

Conference topics include (but are not limited to): "Decreasing Phosphorus Runoff from Pastures by Treating Poultry Litter with Aluminum Sulfate," "Nutrient Loads in the Illinois River, Arkansas," "Water Quality Impacts from a Confined Swine Facility," "Use of GIS to assess Relative Pesticide Contamination Potential in Ground Water in Eastern Arkansas," and "Effects of Disturbance on the Vegetation Riparian Zones".

Registration is \$55.00 for non-students and \$35.00 for students. Contact the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Water Resources Center for further information.



Ask any rancher in the Hill Country of Texas about cedar trees and the response might be that cedars suck – vital water resources from the ground, that is.

“Cedars suck up all your water,” a central Texas rancher tersely observed to the Associated Press. What the locals have been saying for years recently has been substantiated by a five-year research study at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Temple. The general conclusion of the research is that clearing mountain cedar, a native evergreen scientifically known as the Ashe juniper, provides more ground water recharge to the Edwards Aquifer.

Over a two year period, a couple of 40-acre tracts were studied for rainfall and evaporation before any cedar cutting was done. In 1992, crews wielding chain saws cut down small cedar trees, leaving mature cedars as habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. Careful monitoring of soil evapotranspiration rates determined that the cleared land yielded about 60,000 more gallons of ground water recharge per acre in the first year of the study. Levels of 15,000 gallons a year per acre were recorded following re-vegetation by grasses.

Researchers must be careful in issuing advice to ranchers to clear out most of the mountain cedars on their property, however. A local rancher was clearing cedars from his lands when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asked him to stop so biological surveys could be taken to determine if the property was warbler habitat. After being warned of possible violations to the federal Endangered Species Act, the rancher has placed his land clearing plans on hold. ♦

- adapted from *U.S. Water News*, Jan., 1996, Vol. 12(7)



RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

A Guide for Local Decision-Makers

Author: EPA Length: 153 pages

Report #: EPA/625/R-94/009

This guide strives to assist small community decision-makers find their way in the complex environmental arena. The guide steps through developing a community environmental plan.

The chapters cover:

- ⊙ Getting the Right People Involved
- ⊙ Developing a Community Vision
- ⊙ Defining Your Community’s Needs
- ⊙ Finding Feasible Solutions for Your Community
- ⊙ Putting the Plan Together
- ⊙ Implementation: Putting the Plan Into Action & Keeping it On Track

The appendices are also very useful, and include a section on how to determine what environmental regulations affect your community. There is also a portion on assessing environmental risk and a listing of EPA contacts and other technical support centers. ♦



This guide is part of our resource collection. To check it out contact Hannah Barbara Fulton at (405) 744-5653.

If you need a copy of any articles, contact Hannah Barbara Fulton at (405) 744-5653

Michael D. Smolen, Water Quality Coordinator;
Dept. of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering 218
Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078-6021
(405) 744-5653 or FAX (405) 744-6059
Editor: Anna Fallon, Asst. State Extension Specialist