

## Newsletter of the Subcommittee on Hydrology

available on-line at: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/index.html>

### In this Issue:

<a href="#">Welcome from the Chair.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">About the Subcommittee On Hydrology.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Highlights from the January 2010 Meeting.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Highlights from the April 2010 Meeting.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Highlights from the June 2010 Meeting.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">JFIC News.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Work Group Contacts.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">News from Member Organizations.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Papers.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">For your information ..</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">In Memoriam: Mary Mack Greene....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Upcoming Meetings....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Editor's Corner.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>

### Welcome from the Chair

*Excerpt of e-mail received from Mike Strobel, Director, National Water and Climate Center, USDA-NRCS:*

Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 4:59 AM

Subject: Mary Greene

It is with great sorrow that I regret to inform that Dr. Mary Greene, Branch Leader for Water and Climate Services at the USDA-NRCS National Water and Climate Center passed away at 12:30 this morning following a battle with infection. Tom, Mary's husband, was with her when she passed away. Mary was a dedicated and talented scientist and leader, but she will mostly be remembered for her warm, compassionate, and caring personality, her positive attitude, and her drive to serve others. Mary was also a devoted mother and wife, and worked hard to always be there for her family and support her children in their growth and activities. She will be sorely missed by all of us who knew her and cared for her. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her two daughters, Amber and Katie.

Mary, we will miss you.

I was deeply saddened upon learning of the passing of Dr. Mary Greene, Chair of the Subcommittee on Hydrology on July 16, 2010. Her sudden death leaves a hole in our lives as her colleagues and friends. I can only imagine the hole in her family's lives as they come to terms with her death and work to move forward in their own journey through life.

The last time I spoke with Mary was just two days before the Joint Federal Interagency Conference in Las Vegas. She called to let me know that she would not be at the conference because she was having problems with her shoulder and hip after falling in the driveway at her home while walking her dogs. No one could foresee what was to follow. Surgeries on both her hip and shoulder followed by a staph infection from which she was ultimately unable to recover.

This will be a time of transition for the Subcommittee on Hydrology. I don't believe we've had to deal with the death of a sitting chair before, so we will need to work through who will assume those responsibilities. There are some exciting challenges ahead of the Subcommittee and I look forward to working with all the Subcommittee members to keep existing projects moving forward as well as developing strategies to address the new challenges ahead.

*Claudia C. Hoefl  
Vice-Chair, Subcommittee on Hydrology  
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation  
Service*

[Back to Contents](#)

## About the Subcommittee on Hydrology

*The Purpose of the Subcommittee on Hydrology is "To improve the availability and reliability of surface-water quantity information needed for hazard mitigation, water supply and demand management, and environmental protection." All members who join the SOH share in and support this common purpose as a network to fulfill our mission as defined in the Terms of Reference.*

*The subcommittee Vice-chair and current contact is Claudia Hoeft of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Claudia can be reached by phone at 202-720-0772 or by e-mail at: [claudia.hoeft@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:claudia.hoeft@wdc.usda.gov)*

*Detailed information about the subcommittee can be found at: <http://acwi.gov/hydrology/>*

*The Subcommittee on Hydrology reports to the Advisory Committee on Water Information that operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.*

[Back to Contents](#)

## Highlights from January 2010 Meeting

Twenty-four members of the Subcommittee on Hydrology participated in the January 2010 meeting held at the Department of Agriculture's South Building in Washington, D.C. on January 7. Originally intended to house offices and laboratories, the building, completed in 1936, was the largest office building in the world until the completion of the Pentagon. The building is approximately 460 feet by 944 feet with 7 stories and 4500 rooms. It is widely held that the building's architect was known for designing prisons, however at the time Louis A. Simon was with the Federal Office of the Supervising Architect.

In lieu of a guest speaker, this meeting was primarily devoted to reviewing topics for presentation at the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) meeting scheduled for February 10-12, 2010. Topics include an overview on activities of each of the Work Groups, the upcoming Joint Federal Interagency Conference, and the Proposed Data Exchange Work Group.

*(Post script: The ACWI meeting scheduled for February 10-12, 2010 was cancelled and had to be rescheduled due to massive snowstorms that blanketed the Washington, DC area in February. The meeting was rescheduled and held in July 2010.)*

[Back to Contents](#)

## Highlights from April 2010 Meeting

Mary Greene welcomed members and visitors to the second meeting of the SOH in 2010 held at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. Eighteen persons participated in this meeting.

Claudia Hoeft, NRCS, Vice-chair of SOH, acknowledged Sam Lin, FERC, for his help in making this meeting possible. Claudia learned on April 28 that the room originally reserved in the South Ag Building was not

available prompting a very last minute location change.

Special guest speaker Jon Roe, Chief of the Hydrologic Software Engineering Branch for NOAA, National Weather Service made a presentation entitled, Implementation of the Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS). Jon's presentation can be accessed through the SOH web-site at: [http://acwi.gov/hydrology/minutes/chips\\_acwi\\_soh\\_20100429.pdf](http://acwi.gov/hydrology/minutes/chips_acwi_soh_20100429.pdf)

[Back to Contents](#)

## Highlights from June 2010 Meeting

The Subcommittee on Hydrology met June 25, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV in conjunction with the 2010 Joint Federal Interagency Conference composed of the 9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference and the 4th Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conference: <http://www.jfic.us/>.

The SOH meeting focused on last minute work items for the Conference, and a discussion of the slides for the upcoming ACWI meeting to be held in Reston, VA, July 13-14, 2010. Minutes from the ACWI meeting can be found ACWI web-site at: [http://acwi.gov/acwi2010\\_july/index.html](http://acwi.gov/acwi2010_july/index.html).

Claudia Hoeft, SOH Vice-chair, led the meeting in the absence of Mary Greene, SOH Chair, who was unable to attend due to an illness.

The next SOH meeting to be held on October 21, 2009 at the USDA South Ag Building in Washington DC.

[Back to Contents](#)

## JFIC News

The second Joint Federal Interagency Conference was held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas from June 27 through July 1. About 550 people participated. A wide variety of Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, universities and consulting firms throughout the United States and other nations were represented.

The conference consisted of six concurrent tracks - three in sedimentation and three in hydrologic modeling. Oral paper sessions were generally well attended as were a poster presentation and computer demonstration session, and the student poster competition.

Six short courses were held, four in the Sedimentation discipline and two in Hydrologic Modeling.

Two technical field trips were offered - a one day trip to Hoover Dam and an extended four day trip covering Hoover Dam, the Grand Canyon and Glen Canyon Dam. Both were well attended and well received by the participants.

[Back to Contents](#)

## SOH Work Group Contacts

### Extreme Storm Events Work Group

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/extreme-storm/index.html>

Information on the activities of the Extreme Storm Events Work Group can be obtained from Tom Nicholson. He can be reached by email at: [Thomas.Nicholson@nrc.gov](mailto:Thomas.Nicholson@nrc.gov).

### Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Work Group

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/Frequency/index.html>

Information on the activities of the Work Group can be obtained from Will Thomas. He can be reached by e-mail at: [WTHOMAS@mbakercorp.com](mailto:WTHOMAS@mbakercorp.com).

### Satellite Telemetry Interagency Work Group

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/stiwig/index.html>

Meeting minutes and information on the activities of this Work Group can be obtained from Charles Allen. He can be reached by phone at: (208) 378-5189 or by e-mail at: [cmallen@usbr.gov](mailto:cmallen@usbr.gov).

### Hydrologic and Hydraulic GIS Applications Work Group

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/h2gisa/>

For information on the Work Group or to become a member please contact Bill Merkel by phone at (301)-504-3956 or by e-mail at: [william.merkel@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:william.merkel@wdc.usda.gov).

### Hydrologic Modeling Work Group

<http://acwi.gov/hydrology/Hydro-Modeling/index.html>

Teleconference minutes and additional information on the activities of the Work Group can be obtained from Don Frevert. He can be reached by phone at (303) 989-4270 or by e-mail at: [dkfrevert@netzero.net](mailto:dkfrevert@netzero.net)

[Back to Contents](#)

## News from Member Organizations

### USDA - Forest Service

#### Healthy watersheds can sustain water supplies, aquatic ecosystems in a changing climate

**PORTLAND, Ore. June 28, 2010.** The U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station has published a report about the role of forests in the stewardship of water in a changing climate. The report is available online at [http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw\\_gtr812.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr812.pdf).

Titled *Water, Climate Change, and Forests: Watershed Stewardship for a Changing Climate*, the publication describes healthy,

resilient watersheds as a primary strategy for sustaining ecosystems and the clean, abundant water they provide.

“Water from forested lands supports people, ecosystems, agriculture, industry, and energy production and is immensely valuable and irreplaceable,” said Michael Furniss, a hydrologist with the PNW Research Station and lead author of the publication. “With a changing climate, the need for stewardship of forested watersheds to secure high-quality water supplies and

*continued on page 4...*

**More News from  
Member  
Organizations**

*...continued from page 3*

healthy aquatic ecosystems is more important than ever.”

The report’s 13 primary authors and more than 40 contributors and reviewers are Forest Service earth scientists and aquatic biologists who worked for two years to develop the technical details for managing watersheds for resilience and for protecting water.

“We face many serious challenges in managing forested watersheds, and it is notable that the Forest Service has remarkable expertise and experience to do this work,” Furniss said. “The Forest Service has over 800 water and aquatic ecosystem specialists posted in hundreds of locations all over the country, a robust research base and capacity, and decades of experience in watershed stewardship.”

Printed copies of the report can be requested after July 9 by e-mailing [pnw\\_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us](mailto:pnw_pnwpubs@fs.fed.us) and referencing “PNW-GTR-812.”

The Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station is headquartered in Portland, Ore., and has 11 laboratories and centers in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington and about 425 employees.

**Contact:** Michael Furniss, (707) 340-3474, [mfurniss@fs.fed.us](mailto:mfurniss@fs.fed.us)

**Media assistance:** Yasmeen Sands, (360) 753-7716, [ysands@fs.fed.us](mailto:ysands@fs.fed.us)

*Submitted by  
Jean Thomas, USDA Forest Service*

[Back to Contents](#)

## **USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service**

### **USACE and NRCS Work to Strengthen Partnership**

In 2005, the USACE and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) signed a partnership agreement, pledging to work together in the areas of watershed planning; wetlands creation, restoration and enhancement; natural disaster recovery; and wetlands conservation and regulatory compliance.

Recently NRCS and USACE leadership met to review and strengthen this partnership by reviewing recent accomplishments and discussing issues and potential for future collaboration. A major effort for 2010 will be researching and writing a Partnership Handbook.

This handbook will highlight experiences USACE and NRCS staff have had in working together. The handbook will include sections on ecosystem restoration, flood risk management, natural disaster recovery, permitting under Section 404 of the CWA, and Integrated Water Resources Management; as well as information on relevant programs and authorities for the NRCS and Corps, the role of non-federal partners, and the intersection between the agencies’ regulatory programs.

*Submitted by:  
Claudia C. Hoelt, USDA – NRCS*

[Back to Contents](#)

## Upcoming Conferences and Calls for Papers



### American Water Resources Association 2010 AWRA Summer Specialty Conference

*International Specialty Conference and 8<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Islands Water Resources Congress on Tropical Hydrology and Sustainable Water Resources in a Changing Climate*

**San Juan, Puerto Rico  
August 30-September 1, 2010**

<http://awra.org/meetings/PR2010/index.html>



### American Meteorological Society 14th Conference on Mountain Meteorology

**Lake Tahoe Vicinity, CA  
August 30-September 3, 2010**

<http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/2010/14mm.html>



### XV Congreso Peruano de Geología (15<sup>th</sup> Annual Geological Congress) *Incluyendo e integrando recursos para la Sociedad* *(Including and integrating resources for Society)*

**Cusco, Perú  
27 Septiembre-1 Octubre 2010  
(September 21-October 1, 2010)**

<http://www.congresosgp.com/>  
<http://www.congresosgp.com/eng-index.html>



### American Meteorological Society 25<sup>th</sup> Conference on Severe Local Storms

**Denver, CO  
October 11-15, 2010**

<http://www.ametsoc.org/MEET/fainst/2010/25sls.html>



### American Water Resources Association 2010 AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
November 1-4, 2010**

<http://awra.org/meetings/Philadelphia2010/index.shtml>

### American Geophysical Union 2010 AGU Fall Meeting

**San Francisco, California, USA  
December 13-17, 2010**

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm10/>

*Please submit information regarding upcoming conferences and/or calls for papers to Richard Raione or Claudia Hoefl.*

[Back to Contents](#)

## For your information

### **Drought, Water, and Climate: Using today's information and designing tomorrow's services**

The Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the Western States Water Council (WSWC) will hold a meeting September 14-15, 2010 in Washington, DC to focus attention on coordinating drought and related climate services and response among federal agencies and at federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental intersections in order to meet priority needs. The goal of developing specific recommendations to improve drought information coordination, delivery, and response in a changing environment.

The audience for this workshop includes water, climate, and drought-related program managers, policy-makers, and budget analysts; strategic planners; federal-tribal-state-local partnership coordinators; water managers; drought & climate service-related researchers and academics; and interested NGO and private sector participants.

Space is limited, so registration is required. Visit <http://www.westgov.org/> for more information or contact Tom Iseman, WGA, (303)623-9378; or Tony Willardson, WSWC, (801)685-2555.

*Courtesy of WGA and WSWC*

### **USGS water-data delivery**

Users can receive instant, customized updates about water conditions by signing up for [WaterAlert](#), a new service from the U.S. Geological Survey. Whether users are watching for floods, interested in recreational activities, or concerned about the quality of water in a near-by river, WaterAlert allows them to receive daily or hourly email or text messages when current conditions in specific rivers, lakes or groundwater wells match user specified levels or conditions.

The WaterAlert subscription page is at <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert>. This site consists of a map interface and a short subscription form. Users select their preferred delivery method (email or text); the data parameters in which they are interested; the threshold for which they want the alerts; and how often they want to receive notifications while the threshold is met (hourly or daily). There are four thresholds available to choose from—above or below a value, and between or outside of a range of values. A few minutes after subscribing, the user receives a WaterAlert confirmation email to which the user must reply within two days to activate the subscription.

*Submitted by  
Robert Mason, USGS*

### **Report on 2008 Midwest Flooding**

The USGS recently released a report describing the 2008 flooding in the Midwest.

Record precipitation amounts, coupled with previously saturated soils, resulted in flooding along many rivers in the United States Midwest. Separate flooding events occurred in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, and September of 2008. The June floods were by far the most severe and widespread with substantial (and in places record) flooding.

During 2008, peak-of-record streamflows were recorded at more than 147 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) streamgages. The annual exceedance probability of the peak streamflows at 25 streamgages was less than 0.2 percent and between 0.2 and 1 percent at 68 streamgages.

The report is available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1775/>.

*Submitted by  
Robert Mason, USGS*

[Back to Contents](#)

## In Memoriam



*Dr. Mary Greene*

### † Mary Mack Greene

Mary Mack Greene of Lake Oswego died on July 16, 2010 at OHSU from complications following surgery after a long illness. She was 50.

She was born on June 15, 1960 in Valley Forge U.S. Army Hospital in Phoenixville, Penn. to Lt. Col. William Mack and Roberta Townsend Mack.

She attended high school at Newtown High School in Newtown, Conn. and then earned an M.S. and Ph.D. at the University of Delaware.

She married Thomas D. Greene in 1992 in the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Newark, Del.

The couple moved to the Portland Metro area in 2008 so Mrs. Greene could accept the position as Leader, Physical Scientist at the National Water and Climate Center.

Mrs. Greene was a longstanding member of the Episcopal Church, and a volunteer in church and schools.

She is survived by her husband, Thomas, her daughters Amber Lea Mack Greene and Katherine Roberta Mack Greene of Lake Oswego; her sister Joyce Mack Scheyer of Lincoln, Neb.; her brother Robert Mack of Colorado Springs, Colo.; her grandmother Jesse Banks of Peoria, Ill.; her aunt Wardell Graves of Peoria, Ill.

Her father, mother and brother, William Howard Mack, all preceded her in death.

Services will be held at Christ Church Episcopal Parish, 1060 Chandler Rd., Lake Oswego at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 24.

Trust fund donations may be made to the Mary Greene Memorial Fund in care of U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 1170, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

*Reprinted, with permission, from the July 22, 2010 edition, [Lake Oswego Review Obituaries](#)*

[Back to Contents](#)

## Upcoming Meetings

### Subcommittee on Hydrology:

October 21, 2010  
9:00 a.m.

US Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

[Back to Contents](#)

## Editor's Corner

This edition of the newsletter is being dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mary Greene. Mary was instrumental in taking an idea for a newsletter and turning it into SOH Connections. Without her work, this newsletter would never have existed at all.

While it has been a while since the last issue of SOH Connections, I'm hopeful this issue marks the beginning of our ability to get the newsletter out on a regular basis again.

With Mary's passing I'm not sure what is in store for me so far as my responsibilities as Vice-chair of the SOH and Editor of the newsletter. Richard Raione of NRCS is the current Associate Editor and I will be looking to him to take over development of the newsletter, but he needs help gathering the newsletter content.

A few SOH members submit articles on a regular basis and I thank them for their interest in the newsletter and their help in pulling articles together. For other SOH members, I am challenging you to provide one submission a year on a topic of your choice. If nothing else, a brief synopsis of your organization and its interest in SOH would make for a great article. Other topics to consider are updates on activities occurring in your organization; information

and articles for public awareness; information of value and interest to students; and titles, dates, and web-links for conferences and workshops.

It is only through the efforts of our member that we are able to put the newsletter together and if we don't get enough submittals for a newsletter, we don't have one, so if you have an interest in submitting material, please contact Richard or me.

Sincerely,  
*Claudia Hoefft*

To submit items for the newsletter, please contact either Claudia Hoefft or Richard Raione.

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[Back to Contents](#)