

**Minnesota Ground Water Association  
Spring Conference 2009  
Connecting with Ground Water  
May 7, 2009 8am - 4:30pm**

**Speaker Biographies**

**Jim Almendinger**

Jim received a B.A. in botany from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Minnesota. After postdoctoral work in Alaska and Sweden, he spent five years as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and then joined the Science Museum of Minnesota's St. Croix Watershed Research Station in 1995. There he has worked on projects in paleolimnology, stream monitoring, lake water quality, and watershed modeling.

Dr. James E. Almendinger, Senior Scientist  
St. Croix Watershed Research Station, Science Museum of Minnesota  
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**Carl Almer**

Carl has nearly 15 years of experience in Water Resources and Watershed District Engineering. Specializing in watershed district program implementation, development plan reviews, and hydraulic & hydrologic modeling, Carl has contributed to many of EOR's streambank stabilization and wetland restoration projects. Carl has helped the City of Inver Grove Heights develop an alternative stormwater management plan that would utilize existing natural basins within the city to infiltrate stormwater, resulting in significant savings on infrastructure cost. Carl's many years of supervising the Rice Creek Watershed District's permitting program provides him with extensive hands-on experience in private and municipal improvements.

Carl Almer, Water Resources Engineer  
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**Eric Mohring**

Eric Mohring has been a hydrologist/ mid-level technocrat with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) since 1990. His interests are applying hydrogeologic knowledge to natural resource management at the state and local levels, wetland hydrology and soils, ground water - surface water interactions, and engineering geology.

Currently he works on technical assistance to local government, wetland hydrologic monitoring, wetland hydrology training, wetland restoration projects, and other odd jobs. From 1985-90 he was a hydrologist with the Department of Natural Resources. From 1983-85 he was a geologist with the Chicago office of Woodward-Clyde consultants. He has a BS in geology from Princeton University and an MS in hydrogeology from the University of Minnesota.

Extra info: He lives in south Minneapolis with his wife and son, who remind him frequently and good naturedly about his absent-mindedness, habitual lateness, and hair loss. A physician once told him that for someone of his weight, he was vertically challenged. He is educated beyond his intelligence. He

speaks Greek, French, and some English. He plays mandolin and fiddle. He is an embarrassment to his 14-year old son, but his wife still says she likes him. By some accounts he is a swell fellow.

Eric Mohring, hydrologist  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
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## **Don Rosenberry**

Donald Rosenberry is a hydrologist with the USGS National Research Program in Denver, Colorado, specializing in processes that affect exchange between groundwater and surface water and developing new tools for quantifying fluxes at the sediment-water interface. Don received his training in geology, geography, hydrogeology, and fluvial geomorphology at Bemidji State University, University of Minnesota, and University of Colorado. Don has been a member of MGWA since 1984 and returns to Minnesota on a regular basis to collaborate with colleagues and conduct research at the USGS Shingobee Headwaters field site near Leech Lake.

Donald Rosenberry  
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## **Faye Sleeper**

Faye Sleeper manages the WRC outreach activities related to Impaired Waters and TMDLS, linking with U of M researchers, state and federal agencies, and other Universities in the upper Midwest. She is Principal Investigator for the Clean Water Legacy Results and Tracking project and actively works on identifying research and training needs in Impaired Waters. Faye is co-chair of the 2008 Minnesota Waters Conference and helps coordinate the Water Resources Research Institute grants program for the U.S. Geological Survey. She is also transitioning into managing urban runoff projects of the WRC.

Faye has an M.A. in Geography from the University of Minnesota and a B.A. in Sociology and History from Grinnell College. She brings to the WRC seventeen years of experience working with water quality issues while at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Her most recent work was with Watershed programs where she managed several nonpoint source grant programs and worked with many partners in developing the TMDL program.

WRC Projects: Impaired Waters and TMDL program, Mississippi River Life Program and Policy and Social Science aspects of water resource issues.

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## **Deb Swackhamer**

Deb manages the research and educational programs within the WRC, including overseeing the Water Resources Research Institute grants program for the US Geological Survey, directing the biennial Minnesota Water Conference, and developing additional research and educational opportunities for the Center.

Deb is a Professor of Environmental Chemistry in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health. In her research program, she has studied the processes affecting the behavior and fate of persistent organic compounds including PCBs, dioxins, and pesticides in the

Great Lakes for the past 20 years, including sediment accumulation, source determinations, water column processes, and foodweb bioaccumulation. Her current research is focused on developing chemical indicators of ecological conditions for coastal zones of the Great Lakes, and on exposures and impacts of endocrine disruptors (<http://glei.nrri.umn.edu/default/>). Deb also generates the data for the US EPA Great Lakes Fish Monitoring Program, which monitors time trends in persistent contaminants using fish as biomonitors.

Deb chairs the US Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board and is a member of the International Joint Commission of the US and Canada. She chairs the Science and Technology Advisory Committee for the Great Lakes Environmental and Molecular Sciences Center at Western Michigan University, and serves on the Advisory Board for the National Undersea Research Program of NOAA for the North Atlantic-Great Lakes region. She was also named in June 2005 to the Editorial Advisory Board of the "Journal of Environmental Monitoring," published by the Royal Chemical Society (UK). Deb was also recently appointed by the governor to serve as the Higher Education Representative to Minnesota's Clean Water Council. View the Council Activities.

Deb received a BA in Chemistry from Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA) and an MS and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Water Chemistry and Limnology & Oceanography, respectively. After two years post-doctoral research in Chemistry and Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, she joined the Minnesota faculty in 1987.

WRC Projects: Water Resources Research Institute program, a member of the National Institutes of Water Resources, "The Power of Water" a lecture series funded by the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment, and the Life Sciences.

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## **Andrea Wedul**

Andrea Wedul graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a Masters in Landscape Architecture; Has worked with Critical Connections Ecological Services; Was involved in a project to assess the scenic values within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway with the Washington Conservation District; has been honored by the Minnesota Chapter of the ASLA 2005: Honor Award for Cedar Riverside Urban Stormwater Park; is a local TV sensation - on *HGTV's show Landscape Smart: "Landscape designer Andrea Wedul transforms the space into a fun zone ready for barbeque parties and bocce ball, while keeping it environmentally friendly."*

Andrea Wedul, Adjunct Assistant Professor  
University of Minnesota, Dept of Landscape Architecture  
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## **Bruce Wilson**

Areas of Interest and Research Activities:

Quantity and quality of surface waters, especially as influenced by agricultural practices; hydraulics of flow in erodible channels; hydrologic/water quality modeling of disturbed and agricultural watersheds; parameter estimation and uncertainty.

Education:

B.S. Agricultural Engineering (1976)  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

M.S. Agricultural Engineering (1979)  
University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN

Ph.D. Agricultural Engineering (1984)  
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Bruce N. Wilson, Professor  
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## **Ray Wuolo**

Ray Wuolo is a principal hydrogeologist with Barr Engineering Co. in Minneapolis. His primary emphasis has been the application of groundwater flow models to issues of water supply, groundwater sustainability, mine hydrology, groundwater contamination, and groundwater-surface water interaction. His recent projects include managing the development of a new groundwater model of the Twin Cities area, evaluating the potential effects of pumping on Valley Creek in Washington County, and various modeling endeavors in the oil sands area of northern Alberta. Ray received BS and MS degrees in geological engineering from Michigan Tech and South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, respectively, and he is licensed professional engineer and professional geologist in several states and Canadian provinces.

Ray W. Wuolo, P.E., P.G., Vice President/Principal Hydrogeologist  
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## **Ginny Yingling**

Ginny Yingling is a hydrogeologist in the Environmental Health Division of the Minnesota Department of Health where she works with a team of toxicologists and health risk assessors to evaluate potential exposures and public health risks associated with contaminated sites. Since 2003, she has been involved in multiple investigations of perfluorinated chemicals in Washington County and across the state of Minnesota.

She has a B.S. in geology from the Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in geology from the University of Wyoming. Prior to working for the Health Department, she worked at Twin City Testing and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, as well as going off the hydro-reservation for five years to be the State Director at two non-profit environmental groups.

Virginia Yingling  
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