

## *43<sup>rd</sup> Annual New Mexico Water Conference Speaker Biographies*

**Speaker  
Biographies**

**Neal W. Ackerly** received his doctorate in anthropology from Arizona State University in 1986. In the mid-1980s, he directed a number of projects focusing on the dynamics of pre-historic irrigation systems in central Arizona. Working in New Mexico over the past ten years, he has documented historical interactions between small- and large-scale irrigators and the rivers on which they depend. His studies encompass large federal irrigation projects (EBID, MRGCD) as well as smaller community acequia systems in the Mimbres, Ruidoso, Peñasco, and Velarde areas. Among other efforts, he recently prepared an overview of the historical development of irrigation systems across New Mexico.

**Ed Archuleta** was hired by the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board as General Manager in January 1989. He is responsible for all aspects of water and wastewater service to the Greater El Paso Metropolitan Area, a population of more than 650,000. From 1974-1989, Ed worked for the City of Albuquerque in various positions with the City's Water and Wastewater Department, including that of Assistant Director/Operations, Public Works Department. Active in several technical and professional organizations, Ed serves as a member of a number of boards including the American Water Works Association Research Foundation. Ed earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from New Mexico State University and a Master of Management degree from the University of New Mexico.

**Gary Arnold** is a native third generation Mesilla Valley farmer. He attended New Mexico State University. Gary has been on the board of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District for nine years and currently is the Chair.

**W. Peter Balleau** is a graduate of the University of New Mexico (B.A. geology, 1968) and a Certified Professional Hydrogeologist. He has worked as a groundwater geologist in Kenya through the U.S. Peace Corps, in Australia and New Mexico in government programs, and as a hydrology consultant based in New York and in Albuquerque. As the head of his consulting firm, Peter focuses on hydrogeology, with particular emphasis on arid-zone hydrology, mine dewatering, water-litigation support and computer modeling of regional aquifer systems.

He has been active in the Court-appointed Hydrology Committee for adjudication of the Lower Rio Grande.

**James (Skipper) Botsford** graduated in 1964 with a degree in bacteriology from the University of Idaho. He went on to Oregon State University to obtain a Ph.D. in microbiology in 1968. Skipper then held a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois before coming to New Mexico State University in 1970. He has been interested in how *Rhizobium meliloti*, the bacterium that grows symbiotically with alfalfa and fixes atmospheric nitrogen, deals with salt stress. After talking with a colleague about a method to measure toxic chemicals, he thought of a method to do this using *R. meliloti*. He ran an experiment and the very first one worked. Skipper has continued to work with the assay for toxic chemicals for about three years, has received a patent, and is seeking a firm to market the method.

**Walter D. Bradley** was born in Clovis, New Mexico. Upon leaving Eastern New Mexico University, he accepted a job with Texas Instruments in Dallas. He made a career change by going to National Chemsearch, a chemical company in Dallas. In 1976, Walter returned to Clovis where he started a real estate business. In January 1995, Walter was sworn in as New Mexico's 26<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor. As President of the Senate, he presides over the legislative body in which he served as State Senator from Curry County from 1989 to 1992. Walter serves on the New Mexico Space Commission Board and the New Mexico Border Authority. He also serves as Honorary Chairman of the New Mexico Resources Advisory Council. Walter was named the 1998 Progressive Farmer Magazine Man of the Year.

**Colleen Caldwell** came to New Mexico in 1994 to become Assistant Leader of the New Mexico Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences at New Mexico State University. Her research interests at NMSU describe the distribution and biological effect of contaminants in the aquatic environment. Despite New Mexico's arid climate, a number of reservoirs, rivers, and streams provide ample opportunity for Colleen and her colleagues to investigate the impact man has on this precious and limited resource.

Colleen received a bachelor's degree in fisheries sciences from Texas A&M University, an M.S. in aquatic biology from Southwest Texas State University, and a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

**Calvin Chavez** received his B.S. in civil engineering from New Mexico State University and an M.S. in water resources administration from the University of New Mexico. He also has completed training in administrative law at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Calvin has worked for the Office of the State Engineer for 16 years. He has been supervising the administration of both surface and underground water rights throughout the state of New Mexico. He also has worked in the field of hydrographic surveys and subdivision reviews for the State Engineer. Calvin has been the Assistant Chief of the Water Rights Division for the last ten years, and in April 1998 was assigned as the District IV Supervisor in Las Cruces. He serves as a Hearing Examiner for the State Engineer and conducts administrative hearings in disputed matters.

**Max Chavez** graduated from Highlands University with a B.A. in management and has completed graduate courses through University of New Mexico's Water Resources Program. Max worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 10 years and as a private consultant for water rights determination. For the past 15 years, Max has worked for the Office of the State Engineer in Santa Fe and currently is project manager of the hydrographic survey of the Lower Rio Grande.

**Richard P. Cheney** is President of Cheney-Walters-Echols, Inc., a Farmington-based civil engineering firm specializing in land development, water supply, wastewater treatment, and municipal road design. He graduated from New Mexico State University in 1960 with a B.S. in civil engineering. Following graduation, he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and served as inspector on the construction of Atlas Guided Missile sites in Roswell. In 1961 he joined C.L. Arnot in establishing the consulting engineering firm of Arnot-Cheney, Inc. in Clovis, a firm that provided water-treatment consulting services for eastern New Mexico and west Texas cities. In 1975, Richard joined Cheney-Walters-Echols, Inc. as Director of the Civil Engineering Division. In 1984 he was elected to the NM House of Representatives and was re-elected in 1986, 1988 and 1990. During his tenure he served on the

Agriculture and Water Resources Committee and currently is the chairman of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.

**Wayne Cunningham** has been a member of the National Water Resources Association for 28 years, a member of the Board of Directors since 1976, and was elected president in 1995 and will serve in that capacity until January 1999. For the past 18 years, Wayne has been a soil and water conservation specialist with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Prior to that, he was Treasurer/Manager of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District for 22 years. He served on the Interstate Stream Commission for six years and the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission for 17 years. Since 1976, Wayne has been president of the New Mexico Water Resources Association and since 1986, a member of the Western States Water Council. A long-time friend of the WRR, Wayne has served on the institute's Water Conference Advisory Committee since 1970. In fact, Wayne's very first public speech was given at the 1970 Annual New Mexico Water Conference.

**James Davis**, over-educated, DWM, received a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, a master's from University of Utah at Salt Lake City, and Ph.D. from New Mexico State University, all in biology. Jim claims to be Responsible, having held only two jobs in the last 19 years: New Mexico Department of Agriculture for 18 years and Chief of the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department for the past 10 months. He enjoys public meetings and stimulating discussions on water quality criteria, especially Hg and Se; he's ISO interested audience to hear short talk on H<sub>2</sub>O quality issues.

**Charles T. DuMars'** educational background includes a bachelor's degree in psychology from University of Oregon and a law degree from University of Arizona. Since 1976 he has been a professor of law at the University of New Mexico. Chuck also is affiliated with Law & Resource Planning Associates, P.C., a new law firm that employs a multidisciplinary approach to complex natural resources issues. He is a nationally recognized expert in the area of water law and water rights. Chuck's most recent book is *Mexico City's Water Supply: Improving the Outlook for Sustainability*.

**Rodger Ferreira** is the Associate District Chief for the New Mexico District, Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). He received a

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B.S. degree in fisheries and wildlife from the University of California/Davis in 1971 and an M.S. degree in fisheries from Humboldt State University in 1976. Since 1972, Rodger has worked for the USGS in the California, Montana and Texas districts before moving to New Mexico in 1990. Hydrologic studies have included work in the areas of limnology, aquatic entomology, and surface-water quality.

**Mary Helen Follingstad** joined the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission staff to manage the state's Regional Water Planning program in 1997. Prior to joining the ISC, Mary Helen worked for Santa Fe County for 14 years as a community planner. She earned a master's degree from the University of New Mexico in community and regional planning in 1986 and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

**Jack Hammond** was appointed to the Rio Grande Compact Commission by Texas Governor William P. Clements in 1990. He was reappointed to the Commission by Governor George W. Bush in 1995. As Commissioner, Jack has been very active in monitoring the stream flow of the Rio Grande to insure that southern New Mexico and far west Texas receives its equitable share of Rio Grande water at Elephant Butte Reservoir. Prior to his appointment, Jack was active in the banking industry and has served on various boards and commissions in the El Paso area. He currently serves on the El Paso Housing Finance Corporation Board of Directors and is an Advisory Member to the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

**Mark Jordan** received his law degree from the Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon in 1984. While at law school, he received a certificate in environmental and natural resources law. He received his B.A. in 1976 from Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Mark has been with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission since 1988, starting as a staff attorney in the Legal Division. In 1989, he was promoted to Senior Attorney for Water Rights. In 1992, he was promoted to Assistant Division Director of the Legal Division. Mark assumed his present duties as Director of the Water Policy and Regulations Division in December 1992.

**John F. Kennedy** has been with the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute since July 1994 and involved with the WRRRI's Geographic Information Systems laboratory. His early work at the WRRRI dealt with completing coverages depicting ranch boundaries of lands managed by the Bureau of Land

Management. John now is responsible for the development of GIS-related resources, data, and the coordination and management of the GIS laboratory. John received both B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from New Mexico State University. He is a member of the New Mexico Geographic Information Council, the New Mexico Geological Society, and the New Mexico Section of the American Water Resources Association. John currently is working on a Ph.D. in hydrogeology from the University of Texas/El Paso.

**Eluid Martinez** is the 14th Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. A native son of New Mexico, Commissioner Martinez is a distinguished engineer with extensive experience in water resources administration, planning and flood protection. He served in the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer for 23 years and held the post of State Engineer and Secretary of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission.

**Edward (Nick) Nickerson** is a staff hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey at the Las Cruces Field Office. Nick started with the USGS in 1979 at Pueblo, Colorado as a hydrologic technician and was promoted to hydrologist in 1981. Since moving to Las Cruces in 1983, Nick has worked on many hydrologic studies in southern New Mexico. He has authored several USGS reports on the Mesilla Basin including, *Geohydrology of the Mesilla Ground-Water Basin* and *Selected Hydrologic Data for the Mesilla Ground-Water Basin, 1987-1992 Water Years*. Nick currently is project chief of the Mesilla Basin Monitoring Program and Seepage Investigations.

**Kevin H. Oshima** is an assistant professor of biology at New Mexico State University and specializes in environmental virology. Previously he was with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Port Washington, New York, and prior to that, a fisheries biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service in Seattle. Kevin received an M.S. and Ph.D. in fisheries science from the University of Washington.

**John Shomaker** is president of John Shomaker & Associates, Inc., a water-resource and environmental consulting firm in Albuquerque. He received B.S. and M.S. degrees in geology from the University of New Mexico in 1963 and 1965; an M.A. in the liberal arts from St. John's College in 1984; and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in hydrogeology from the University of Birmingham, England in 1985 and 1995. He has 33 years experience in New Mexico water matters, including four years with the U.S. Geological Survey, four years with the NM Bureau

of Mines and Mineral Resources, and 25 years as a consultant. He has prepared over 100 groundwater reports available in the public record, and has testified in many water-rights matters including 19 State Engineer hearings. He is an adjunct Professor in Earth and Planetary Sciences at UNM. Shomaker & Associates specializes in groundwater supply studies and planning, groundwater flow modeling, assistance with design and well-site hydrogeological services for water wells, and water-rights transfers.

**Hal D. Simpson** was appointed Colorado's State Engineer in 1992. As State Engineer, Hal is responsible for the direction and management of the Division of Water Resources which has a staff of 229 full-time employees and a budget of about \$14 million. The State Engineer is Colorado's commissioner on five interstate compacts and is responsible for assuring compliance with these compacts. Hal served as Deputy State Engineer from 1984 to 1992. He received both B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Colorado State University. The master's degree specialized in water resources and groundwater hydrology. He has done post-graduate work in water resources at the University of Colorado. Hal is a registered professional engineer in Colorado, and is a second generation native from the Greeley area where he grew up on a dryland wheat farm with a small dairy.

**Joe Skeen's** political service began in 1960 when he was elected to the New Mexico State Senate and served for ten years. He successfully ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 and has been re-elected seven times. In the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress, Joe is chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. He also serves on the National Security Appropriations Subcommittee and the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. He is the six-time recipient of the Golden Bulldog award for his efforts to cut federal spending, eliminate waste and reduce the deficit. Joe graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in agricultural engineering. He has worked as a soil and water engineer for the Zuni and Rarhan Navajo Indians and operated a flying service in Ruidoso. The Skeen family runs a sheep ranching operation near Picacho.

**Rubén A. Smith** is now serving his second term as Las Cruces' first mayor elected at large. Rubén previously served nine years in the state legislature where he sponsored key legislation pertaining to youth. He continues to focus on youth issues now at the local level where he worked to establish the

City's first teen club and the first youth center which is run by a nonprofit board. The youth board is the first of its kind in the state that incorporates the arts and physical education. Speaking of arts, the Mayor has been an avid musician for most of his life. After resigning from the El Paso Symphony Orchestra after having been the principal bassoonist for 24 years, he bought a saxophone, the instrument he left behind in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and performs the music that got him started by playing with the Big Band on the Rio Grande.

**Len Stokes** has been President of Progressive Environmental Systems Inc. for the past seven years. He grew up in the Roswell area and attended New Mexico Military Institute and later, New Mexico State University. Len consults in the areas of water issues and water rights, currently for the City of Las Cruces and City of Alamogordo.

**Tom Turney** has served as New Mexico State Engineer since 1994. A professional engineer for over 28 years, Tom is licensed in the fields of civil, electrical, sanitary and architectural engineering and is registered in New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona. Before becoming state engineer, he worked for a number of cities in northwest, central and northeast New Mexico as well as with the Mescalero and Apache tribes. Tom earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from New Mexico State University. He is a native New Mexican, his grandfather having settled in Jornada, New Mexico in the 1880s.

**John Utton** practices in the areas of water and land use law at the firm of Sheehan, Sheehan & Stelzner in Albuquerque. John graduated with a B.A. in economics from the University of Virginia in 1987 and a J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1990. He is a member of the New Mexico and Colorado bar associations and the American Bar Association committee on Water Resources Planning and Land Use Planning and Zoning.

**Robert Wingo** is a graduate student at New Mexico State University and will receive an M.S. in environmental chemistry in May 1999 with a minor in environmental management. His research focus is on environmentally benign water treatment through iron chemistry. Robert was admitted to NMSU in 1991 following enlistment in the U.S. Army. He completed a B.A. in chemistry in 1996 and has assisted NMSU Professor Michael Johnson on WRRF-funded research.