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What is the Penn State Master Well Owner Network?

The Master Well Owner Network is a program dedicated to educating Pa residents about proper private water system construction and management. Our goal is to promote better management of private wells, springs, and cisterns throughout the state.

MWON Sponsors

This project is made possible in part by the Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Water Quality Program, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Ground Water Association.

Pennsylvania Private Water Well Symposium - Please Join Us!



The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel

On Tuesday, October 2, 2007, the Master Well Owner Network is hosting the first Pennsylvania Private Water Well Symposium at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel (shown above) in State College, PA.

The symposium will present the latest research findings related to private water wells, facilitate networking among professionals in the field, and integrate research and educational efforts to promote better management of private water systems throughout Pennsylvania. A special session will be focused on new information pertaining to the Master Well Owner Network.

We encourage university researchers and educators, extension professionals, Master Well Owner Volunteers, and any person involved in ground-water development, management, and regulation in Pennsylvania to attend the symposium.

The first 100 people to register will receive a reduced rate - thanks to our symposium sponsors (page 2). Master Well Owner Volunteers will also have a special price to attend. For more information or to register, visit the website highlighted in the box below this article. Contact Stephanie Clemens at 814-865-2250 with any questions or if you do not have internet access.

For more information visit: <http://mwon.cas.psu.edu/Events.htm>

William E. Sharpe, Founder of MWON, Retires

In June 2007, Bill Sharpe, Professor of Forest Hydrology at Penn State University, retired. Dr. Sharpe has worked for Penn State for the last 30 years and is known for his work on private water systems and acidic deposition. He and Bryan Swistock of Penn State Extension were responsible for creating MWON and for making the best decision of all, hiring Stephanie Clemens as the Coordinator! However, just because Bill has retired does not mean that we have seen the last of him. He promises to continue working with MWON and Penn State for years to come. We wish him good luck in his retirement!



Penn State - Now Testing Private Water Wells

Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences is now offering a water-testing program for private water system owners in Pennsylvania. The program was initiated to promote and educate well owners of the importance of water testing to improve water quality. In addition to the Penn State laboratory, some private labs in the state also perform water testing. A list of the state certified labs may be found at the following website: www.dep.state.pa.us/labs.

Drinking water test kits are

now available at participating county cooperative extension offices or directly from the Penn State Agricultural Analytical Service Laboratory. These kits include a shipping box, sample bottles, instructions on how to take the samples, and a submission form. There are several packages to choose and individual water tests are also available. It is very important that individuals using this service follow the directions provided carefully because there are shipping time limits associated with some of the tests.

After water samples have been sent to the laboratory with payment, results should be received within two to three weeks. Included in your results, you will find how your water test results compare to U.S. EPA drinking water standards. Further information can be found on the Water Resources Education website <http://water.cas.psu.edu>, the Agricultural Analytical Services Lab website <http://www.aasl.psu.edu> or you can contact your county cooperative extension office.



Welcome New Master Well Owner Volunteers

Thanks to Todd Giddings, Pennsylvania Ground Water Association and Matt Genchur, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association for presenting at the May 12, 2007 MWON workshop.

On May 12, 2007, a Master Well Owner Network training was held in State College, PA, and 21 PA residents successfully completed the training. The following individuals are the newest members of MWON (by county):

Adams: Heidi and Jeff Marker

Armstrong: Robert Walters

Bedford: Guy Stottlemeyer

Cambria: Deborah and Eugene Bertram

Carbon: Julie and Martin Foley, Gerard Madden

Centre: Harry Pionke, Nick Salamon

Chester: Albert Koenig

Clarion: Ken Vayda

Clinton: Erin Dunleavy

Erie: Myron Morford

Indiana: John Kanyan

Monroe: Michael Reisenwitz

Montgomery: Charles Breinig

Pike: Laddie Martinek

Westmoreland: Andy Drezewski, Dana Rizzo

Thanks - For Your Support of the Private Water Well Symposium



PA Department of Environmental Protection
<http://www.dep.state.pa.us>

psiee penn state
institutes of energy & the environment

<http://www.environment.psu.edu>



The Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program

www.wpawp.org

PENNSTATE



College of
Agricultural
Sciences

School of Forest Resources
<http://www.sfr.cas.psu.edu>



Pennsylvania Ground
Water Association
www.pgwa.org



U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
www.epa.gov



Water Systems Council
www.watersystemscouncil.org

Ask The Experts

In each issue, experts at Penn State Cooperative Extension will discuss one issue that will help to keep private water system owners well informed.

If you have a question for ask the experts, please send it to mwon@psu.edu.

Where is the best place to find drought and climate-related information specific to Pennsylvania?



Every year, we experience different variations in weather patterns, which affect our water supplies. We usually start to feel these effects in the summer months. This can be especially so for those of us who rely on private wells. Staying on top of current precipitation and groundwater levels can help you better prepare for potential drought situations. On the Penn State Water Resources homepage, there is a link titled *Drought and Climate Information* that can be accessed at <http://water.cas.psu.edu/11.htm>. This website is a collection of links from other agencies that provide up to date information about drought and climate conditions specific to Pennsylvania as well as articles and fact sheets on how to maintain a well and conserve water during a drought.

When accessing *Drought and Climate Information*, you will find several links to various resources that provide current and past data on levels of precipitation and groundwater, stream flows, soil moisture, and reservoir storage. These are especially useful in monitoring your area's current water situation. Click on *Current and Past Precipitation*

Data and you will find departure maps for different lengths of time for the state of Pennsylvania. These departure maps give current precipitation amounts and the departure from normal precipitation amounts for each county. Click on *Current and Past Groundwater Levels* and you will find graphs for all the counties that illustrate year round groundwater levels. There are different graphs to view that relate current groundwater levels to normal levels and graphs that show the current depth to the groundwater surface. Another useful link is the *Current Palmer Drought Index*. This index is used to describe the drought and wet conditions across the nation. This link provides information on the three Palmer indices, what they mean, and how they are used. Also, you can get the current drought declaration for each county in the state of Pennsylvania by accessing the *Current Drought Status* link.

There are also other links on the Penn State Water Resources homepage that address various aspects of drought and water conservation. For more information visit <http://water.cas.psu.edu>.

MWON Volunteers Help at Ag Progress Days 2007

Ag Progress Days will take place in Rock Springs, PA (near State College) on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, August 14 - 16, 2007. The Master Well Owner Network will have a booth for the fourth year in a row and approximately 11 people affiliated with the Master Well Owner Network will be helping to educate event participants about drinking water quality and private water systems.

For the past four years, the MWON booth has been located adjacent to the booth of the Pennsylvania Ground Water Association



(PGWA) in the Conservation Education Tent (CET). Working side-by-side with PGWA has allowed MWON volunteers to network with members of PGWA and gain additional information about private well construction and management.

Thanks to the following people for volunteering to work the MWON booth this year: Bill Anderson, Jan Arnold, Herb Bomberger, Shanon Burkland, Jim Clark, Erin Dunleavy, Gary Micsky, Carl Rohr, Maureen Safko, David Schooley, and Peter Wulfhorst.

Penn State Master Well Owner Network

Master Well Owner Network Newsletter

Editor: Stephanie Clemens

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Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment

A program of Penn State Cooperative Extension and the Penn State Institutes of the Environment.

We're on the Web!

<http://mwon.cas.psu.edu>

Master Well Owner Network Events

August 14 - 16, 2007

Ag Progress Days, Rock Springs, PA

Visit <http://apd.cas.psu.edu> for more information.

August - October, 2007

McKean County Private Well Study, McKean County, PA

Contact Jim Clark for more information 814-887-5613 or jac20@psu.edu

September 18, 2007

Penn State University Safe Drinking Water Clinic, Westmoreland County, PA

Contact Dana Rizzo for more information 724-837-1402 or def18@psu.edu

September 22, 2007

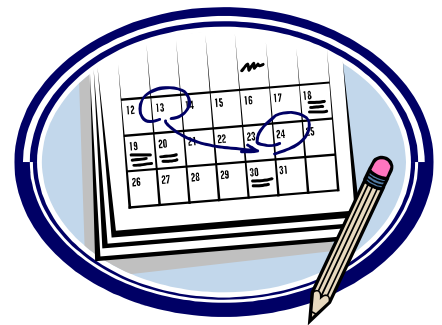
MWON Well Study Event - Beaver/Lawrence and Greene/Fayette Counties

Contact Stephanie Clemens at 814-865-2250 or mwon@psu.edu to participate in well water sample collection.

October 2, 2007

Pennsylvania Private Water Well Symposium, Penn Stater Conference Center, State College, PA

For more information contact Stephanie Clemens 814-865-2250 or mwon@psu.edu or visit <http://mwon.cas.psu.edu/Events.htm>



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