



September/October



THE Waterline

Sustainable Water Use for Utah's Future

Water-Wise Landscape Awards

Large Water User Workshops

Large water users such as churches, schools, and municipalities have challenges that set them apart from residential water users: sheer size of operation, politically sensitive time and money constraints, and plant and equipment issues that complicate simple water less dictums. To address their particular needs, Water Use Workshops have been sponsored in Salt Lake and Utah Counties by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Utah Division of Water Resources, Central Utah Water Conservancy District, and Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy.

Starting July 9 and running most Tuesdays and Thursdays through September 10, the six-hour workshops are presented by Kelly Kopp, Teresa Cerny, and Emily Smith of USU's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping. Topics for discussion include irrigation maintenance,

turfgrass management and water use, ornamental plant management, irrigation scheduling, and irrigation checking and water auditing. Hands-on demonstrations are given on the use of soil probes and irrigation catch cups. Participants are provided a workbook, catch cups, soil probe, and lunch for a registration fee of \$10.00.

The workshop series has been a resounding success, with over 250 participants attending or registered for the remaining sessions. Registration information for this year's final workshop sessions may be obtained by contacting Lori Johnson at USU's Center for Water Efficient Landscaping, 435-797-2255.

Brochures Reprinted

Three popular Forum brochures have been reprinted and are available to members for their use and distribution. "Why Use Water Efficiently," "You Can Be a Water Detective," and "Simple Tips for a

Simply Beautiful Yard" have each been re-worked and brought up-to-date, with information made consistent with the most current water conservation advice available. Contact Forum officers for distribution information.

Coming Events

September 10
Tues 9 am-3 pm
Final Large Water User Workshop, JWCD
taught by Kelly Kopp

September 17
8:30 am-1 pm
Forum Fall Garden Tour, LDS Conference Center, Salt Lake City (see article and registration form inside)

September 21
Sat 10 am-noon
Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape, JWCD
taught by Julie Rotolo

The first annual Water-Wise Landscape Awards contest was held this past summer to recognize those citizens in West Jordan City who are using water-wise principles in their landscapes. The awards were sponsored by West Jordan City's Chamber of Commerce, West Jordan City's Conservation Committee, and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. Nominations were accepted through June and July in three

Contents

- Water-Wise Landscape Awards 1
- New Executive Secretary.....2
- UWCF Fall Tour Coming 2
- UWCF Fall Tour Insert 3
- Forum Completes Video3
- Technology Update3
- Large Water User Workshop 4
- Brochures Reprinted4
- Coming Events4

landscape categories: Residential, Professional, and Institutional. Winners were selected using the following criteria: Aesthetics, Plant Selection, Irrigation System, Maintenance, and Mulches. A fourth category was also included, by nomination of the Selection Committee only, in which a business was recognized for its Innovative Water Use in a Corporate Business setting. This category was intended to recognize those corporations that consume a lot of water but are also using progressive techniques to reduce the water use. These water saving techniques were not necessarily tied to landscaping. There were eight applicants in the residential categories, each of whom received a gift certificate donated by Glover Nursery. The winner was Donna Emery, whose beautiful yard includes a stone pathway through the front and into the back yard, a rock garden on the side of her house, and lovely combinations of low water use plants throughout.

There were two Professional category entries, with Walgreens being selected for this year's award. Walgreens is located in the center of West Jordan City, at 7800 South Redwood Road. It offers attractive hardscaping, terraced rock walls, and low water use plants along the slope, with a waterfall feature in the center. It is a pleasant focal point for this intersection. Walgreens has also been the winner of the Governor's Quality Growth Awards with Envision Utah (two years ago). Walgreens is a great example for surrounding businesses to see an attractive, low water use landscape. The Institutional winner was awarded to the newest West Jordan City Fire House, located at Jordan Landing. Fire Chief Nielsen has worked personally with Water Resources Manager, Carl Hanover,

see [Awards](#)
Continued on next page

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Utah Water Conservation Forum
P.O. Box 1255
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And don't forget to visit our
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Awards

Continued from front page

as the design was approved. The Fire Chief felt strongly about using xeriscape techniques, as he has been doing it in his own yard for 12 years in Colorado. If you visit the Fire Station, take note of the multi-colored mulches and pathways that have been utilized in the narrow, hard-to-water areas, with a nice variety of plants and turfgrass. It is a good example of using appropriate plant materials for the function of the area. Special awards presentations by Mayor Holladay were held on August 10 at Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and August 15 at the Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon. The final ceremony will take place on August 27 at West Jordan's City Council meeting. Award decisions have been tough because the entries have all been wonderful. Photos of these entrants will be posted on West Jordan City (www.wjordan.com) and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's web sites (www.slowtheflow.org).

Meet Our New Executive Secretary

We are happy to announce that Cathryn Myers-Roche has accepted the newly-created position of Executive Secretary to the Water Conservation Forum. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in water management and will be a wonderful asset in facilitating the work of the Forum.

Ms. Myers-Roche is currently an Academic Advisor/Lecturer for the Plants, Soils and Biometeorology Department at Utah State University. She is working on her Professional Master of Horticulture degree with a Water Efficient Landscaping emphasis. She is a certified Agricultural Irrigation Specialist and has worked and studied in Georgia, Colorado, and New Mexico prior to coming to Utah.

As our Executive Secretary, Ms. Myers-Roche will be helping with membership, events and activity coordination, and assistance with the newsletter. She can be reached at (435) 797-5560 or cmyers@mendel.usu.edu. We look forward to a profitable relationship with her and progress toward our mutual goals of wise water use and conservation in Utah.

UWCF Fall Tour Coming Soon!

The Forum's popular traditional Fall Tour will be held Tuesday, September 17, in downtown Salt Lake City. Peter Lassig, chief gardener for LDS Church headquarters, will be directing a tour of the Conference Center gardens and other nearby landscapes as time permits. He will be giving special attention to the challenges of water use in a large urban setting that includes plantings atop buildings, incorporating "natural" stream flows, and a mandate to maintain an international show-place. Cost of the tour will be \$35.00, payable with registration (see newsletter insert). Lunch is included in the fee.

Forum Completes Video

On May 28, 2002, the UWCF completed the filming of its water conservation video "Easy to Save Water." The filming was hosted by Dave and Karolyn Martinez of Salt Lake City, and their yard provided the perfect setting for the day. Local weathercasters Kevin and Mark Eubank volunteered their services to the project along with Dr. Kelly Kopp of USU and several students from Edison Elementary School.

The focus of "Easy to Save Water" is a simple method for evaluating the efficiency of a sprinkler system as well as several other landscape water conservation tips. While Kevin and Kelly evaluated the Martinez's sprinkler system, Mark provided several tips on mowing and irrigating to help save even more water, and all were helped by the enthusiastic Edison Elementary students.

Now that the video is complete, the Forum has begun the process of reproducing and distributing the video throughout Utah. Approximately 6000 VHS tapes and 1000 CDs will be reproduced. Currently, plans are in place to distribute the videos to school and municipal libraries, municipalities, and USU county extension offices. And the video has already appeared on Salt Lake City's public access television channel.

Such a project is not completed without the hard work of many individuals. The UWCF would like to extend thanks and appreciation to Kevin Eubank, Mark Eubank, Dave and Karolyn Martinez, Mark Solorio, Edison Elementary School, Stacey Smith, Don Merrill, Gary Neuenswander, Dennis Hinkamp, Stephanie Duer, Mike Stuver, and Dr. Kelly Kopp.

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of the video should write to the UWCF at P.O. Box 1255, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 or call (801) 538-7230.

Technology Update

Please Note: Mention of brand-name products here does not constitute an endorsement. Occasionally members of the Utah Water Conservation Forum have the opportunity to test and otherwise investigate and comment on technological developments that may be useful in public or private situations. Following are user comments on two contrasting mechanical water conservation devices that have been in use in Utah this summer.

Irrisoft "Weather Reach Receiver" controller peripheral device

The Utah Division of Water Resources has purchased 10 Irrisoft Weather Reach Receivers designed to receive pager-type signals from a remote ET weather station. The controllers in turn are programmed to a particular user-determined ET (evapo-transpiration) threshold and will trigger the irrigation mechanism when that threshold is reached. Molly Waters, Conservation Coordinator with the Division, says that a few of the controllers were put in city parks, and the rest were installed at private residences. A software package accompanies the controllers.

The Division is now collecting data from eight units but has not yet calculated water savings for this irrigation season. To date, Ms. Waters reports that customer service has been excellent, and the devices are extremely user-friendly and easy to understand. Cost effectiveness will be determined when water-use data for this season can be compared to that prior to installation.

Personnel from Salt Lake City Public Utilities also investigated the Irrisoft device but decided against further testing of the product, at least for the time being. Their concerns

The Irrisoft representative in this area is Steven Moore. He can be reached at (435) 755-0400 or smoore@irrisoft.net.

Baseline Soil Moisture Sensors

Central Utah Water Conservancy District has installed a soil moisture sensing system at its Orem headquarters and has cost-shared the trial installation of the sensors at several other sites in Salt Lake and Utah Counties. The sensors are wired into the sprinkler manifolds and then tied to a central computer that operates the sprinklers when user-determined levels of moisture (dryness) in the soil are reached. One sensor can control several irrigation zones, with the differing watering times and amounts being customized by the software. Central Utah Water's 3½ acre site, for instance, has just 7 sensors in place.

District grounds personnel have worked with the system for two summers now and have given input to Baseline as the product comes closer to arriving on the retail market. They report satisfaction with ease of use and say that water use records are showing significant water savings.

Users have generally liked the sensors, which are easily added to existing sprinkler systems. At present, however, practical usage is limited to large landscapes, inasmuch as design calls for a dedicated computer on-site, an expensive proposition for the individual homeowner. The cost-effectiveness of sensors for private residences will improve dramatically when the software can be installed on the family computer.

The local Baseline sales representative is Ed Mathieu, 801-891-7491, www.baselinewater.com