

Contact Information and Short Biographies of the Presenters

USEPA Region 5 Workshop: Groundwater/Surface Water Interactions and Evaluating Impacts of Contaminated Groundwater Discharges: Tools, Ecological Risk, and Case Studies. Nov. 2018

Co-convenor



Brewster Conant Jr., Ph.D., P.Geo.

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Dr. Brewster Conant Jr. is an adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Waterloo and has 30 years of experience in hydrogeology and environmental consulting. He received a B.Sc. in Geology-Physics/Mathematics from Brown University in 1984, and received a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Earth Sciences at the University of Waterloo in 1991 and 2001, respectively. His main area of expertise and interest is in interactions at the groundwater/surface water interface and the examination of flow, transport, and fate of contaminants passing through it. He has developed innovative field methods, instrumentation, and numerical techniques for assessing groundwater/surface-water interactions using temperature as a tracer and infrared thermography.

Co-convenor



Tamara Ohl

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Tamara Ohl is an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She has been with EPA for over 25 years, applying her experience in RCRA regulatory and policy decisions, and managing corrective action projects. She currently serves as a corrective action project manager with EPA's Region 5 office, in Chicago, IL.



Martin A. Briggs, Ph.D.

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Although his specialty is in understanding and quantifying surface water-groundwater exchange processes, Martin Briggs works on a wide range of hydrological issues in his position as research hydrologist with the Hydrogeophysics Branch at the U.S. Geological Survey. The Branch supports state Water Science Centers when hydrogeophysical tools and training are required, and the staff collaborates

with academic institutions on pioneering water research. One of its central missions is training and method development, so Martin travels around the country giving workshops and field testing new methodology. Martin has specifically contributed advancements in the application of heat tracing methodology and integrating fine-scale electrical geophysics at the groundwater/surface water interface. Much of his current research involves defining the physical hydrogeological template that controls niche aquatic habitat and beneficial biogeochemical processes in a time of baseline change. Whether working on a remote atoll or mountain side, or in streams adjacent to the University of Connecticut, Martin is excited to continue to contribute to evolving body of hydrogeological understanding being generated by scientists worldwide.

Martin earned a B.S. in geology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2002; his M.S. from the Hydrologic Sciences and Engineering Program at the Colorado School of Mines in 2009; and he was awarded his Ph.D. in 2012 from Syracuse University.



Bruce Duncan, Ph.D.

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Dr. Bruce Duncan is an ecotoxicologist (Ph.D. - Zoology (Marine Ecology); University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) who has worked for USEPA since 1984. In the past he has served as a Senior Ecologist. He conducted ecological risk assessments; was an acting unit manager of risk assessors, modelers, and biologists; and provided climate science support. As a Deputy Unit Dive Officer he has conducted impact assessments, evaluated contaminated sediment effects, and characterized groundwater - surface water connections using in situ testing, deploying SPMEs (solid phase micro extraction - coated carbon fibers) to evaluate bioavailability, and installing diver-deployed seepage meters and mini-piezometers. He currently is the Region 10 science liaison to EPA's Office of Research and Development working with senior management in ORD's Six National Program Offices. He also manages the Region 10 work of ORD's Office of Science Policy which includes the RARE program (Regional Applied Research Effort).



Ben Bentkowski, P.G.

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Ben Bentkowski is a hydrogeologist in the Scientific Support Section of Region 4's Superfund Division where he works on groundwater and vapor intrusion problems. Since leaving the oil patch 33 years ago, he has exclusively worked on contaminated groundwater problems in Region 4; the last 11 years with EPA.



William C. Brandon

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Bill Brandon has been working as a geoscientist for over 30 years. His experience includes mineral resource exploration, nuclear waste repository characterization studies, water supply assessment and protection, and waste site characterization and remediation. He has been employed as a technical support hydrogeologist with US EPA Region 1 since 1994. His interests and expertise include development of innovative characterization approaches and development of robust conceptual site models in support of remediation projects. In concert with these efforts, Mr. Brandon has been on the forefront of developing simple, effective, and low-cost approaches for assessing the groundwater – surface water interface. These tools and techniques have been used with great success at numerous waste sites in Region 1 for over 10 years. Mr. Brandon graduated from Vanderbilt University with a B.S. in Geology and from the University of Montana with an M.S. in Geology.
