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## STREAMLINES



## Zias-Roe to discuss San Bernardino County landscape efforts Sept. 23

Ben Franklin once said "When the well is dry we learn the worth of water." Through the lens of time and situation, his words now appear prophetic.

Back in the early 1990s, counties and cities were asked to institute water budgets to cut their outdoor water use, but there was no enforcement and the law allowed agencies to opt out. At that time, San Bernardino County chose not to participate, under the theory that the county's size made an umbrella landscape ordinance unfeasible.

More than a decade later, the collective well is looking a little parched. Restrictions on water imported from the Colorado River and Bay-Delta and polluted groundwater sources mean California cities and counties must watch their water budgets. San Bernardino County, like all counties in California, has until January 2010 to either adopt the state's mandatory Landscape Ordinance or prepare its own version that meets or exceeds the state's requirements.

It's a job that Shellie Zias-Roe, from the county's Land Use Services Department has been working on for more than three years. Zias-Roe will discuss the county's efforts during a presentation to the Upper Santa Ana Watershed Landscape Alliance on Tuesday, September 23. Her talk, "Cooperative Water Conservation Strategies for the County of San Bernardino: A Seamless Approach to the Implementation of AB 1881" is the third in a four-part series of talks in 2008 aimed at getting county agencies, land-use planners and landscape specialists prepared to meet the deadline.

People aren't looking at landscape plans submitted (for approval) for water conservation rather than the typical beauty and aesthetic value of the landscape," she said. "This ordinance will be a big change for a lot



Shellie Zias-Roe

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## Lytle Creek outreach kicked off in August

Hundreds of people attended the Aug. 3 kick-off event for the "**Lytle is Vital: Watershed Protection Program**," at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lytle Creek Community Charity Car Show. The Water Resources Institute, and Lytle is Vital partners Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, Santa Ana Watershed Association, and the Fire Safe Council



had booths at Green Mountain Ranch event. The Conversation-On-Wheels (COW), a mobile educational display, was also present at the Applewhite Picnic grounds just up the road from Green Mountain Ranch, with information about the water quality testing taking place in the creek under the auspices of Prof. James Noblet.

Lisa Pierce, Gigi Hanna, Susan Lien Longville, along with WRI interns Jennifer Kimmel, Angelique Santiago, Karen Travis, Nick Perry, and Brian Spears were present at the WRI booth, handing out information about the Lytle is Vital outreach program, demonstrating a novel use for used newspapers and giving away about 100 water-conserving plants. The WRI gave away small yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) plants as a way to

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## WRI Archives to be named in honor of Joseph A. Rowe

The WRI archives will be officially be renamed the **Joseph Andrew Rowe Water Resources Archives** in a ceremony, 5:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at the WRI office.

Rowe was the recipient of the WRI's first Water Hero Award, awarded posthumously in January. The collection of documents assembled by Mr. Rowe over a lifetime working in water in the Inland Empire was donated to the CSUSB Pfau Library in 2000, helping create the the largest collection of historic water related documents open to the public in Southern California.

The simple ceremony will include an unveiling of a plaque with the new name and talks by university officials, WRI staff and Rowe family members. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Oct. 10 to Gigi Hanna, 909-537-3687.

## Archives Corner

## History students use archives for projects

Two student projects that are funded via the USDA grant for students interested in careers in Natural Resources are history-based. The summer interns, Kyle Quarles and Nick Perry, are history majors with an interest in Archives and Public History. Professor Tom Long is their faculty advisor.

Kyle is compiling and researching the early water channels and ditches in the Upper Santa Ana Watershed, especially those on the north side of the Santa Ana River. This area was the location of some of the earliest settlement in the San Bernardino Valley, and how, where, how much and why these early settlers used the water explains how the City of Highland and the eastside of San Bernardino eventually developed. As he researches this interesting history he is also collecting photos of the North Fork Canal and creating a couple of posters of these images along with maps of where the canal was located. How the use of the water changes over time is a fascinating story—from irrigating orange trees to filling swimming pools and drinking glasses.

Nick is creating a database of all the materials in the Joseph Andrew Rowe Water Resources Archives that relate to Lytle Creek. This undertaking is huge, as many of the books, maps and other documents in the Archives have never been compiled with Lytle Creek in mind and should make them much more useful to researchers and students alike. He is also scanning maps, photos and other images of Lytle Creek so they will be available digitally. Nick also has been helping to organize the basement archives where materials await processing. He is also learning the fine art of document repair, and GIS georeferencing.

Both of these projects will benefit the WRI and the Santa Ana Watershed to make documents more usable. Their help is greatly appreciated!

To learn more about the Joseph A. Rowe Water Resources Archives, please visit <http://wri.csusb.edu/> or call Suzie Earp, at (909) 537-7683.

Lytle *continued from front*

introduce the topic of native plants as a water conservation method. The plants were placed into small planters that visitors to the booth made out of recycled newspapers.

Ellen Pollema from the Lytle Creek Fire Safe Council handed out brochures about defensible space, planting lists for fire resistant plants, weed abatement techniques and laws, and techniques for trimming trees. Potholders and pencils, with Fire Safe Council information located on the items, were also passed out.

Mandy Parkes from the IERCD and Dolly Aguirre from SAWA spoke with attendees about Lytle Creek and the services their respective agencies offer area residents. They displayed promotional materials on educational programs offered, invasive species removal services, and general information on native plants and wildlife of the Inland Empire. Dolly used a 3-D watershed model to illustrate stormwater pollution and its effect on the watershed. Miguel Luna from Urban Semillas talked to Spanish speaking visitors about watershed stewardship and Suzanne Avila from California Conservation Connection Inc, handed out Spanish versions of the "Lytle Es Vital" brochure.

The COW mobile, which was borrowed from the Natural Resources Conservation Services and Resource Conservation and Development offices in Riverside, gave Dr. Noblet and two of his interns a place to test water samples, and discuss types of pollutants and pollution prevention strategies—such as proper disposal of diapers—with attendees.

Article by intern Jennifer Kimmel; photo by intern Brian Spears.



Susan Lien Longville, Lisa Pierce and Intern Angelique Santiago work at the WRI booth at the Lytle Creek Outreach program kick-off

**Meet: Jason Thomas****Grad student hopes to send knowledge back home to Belize**

The jaguar tooth around his neck reminds WRI intern Jason Thomas of where he came from, and where he's going.

The 26-year-old environmental sciences graduate student left Belize nine years ago determined to get an education. His journey took him 2,200 miles and a world away from the village of St. Paul's Bank.

While internships traditionally give students a chance to gain skills that will help them get that most important first job, post-college, Jason hopes to build more than a resume. He plans to advance development in his homeland.

Belize is bordered on the north by Mexico, on the south and west by Guatemala, and on the east by the Caribbean Sea. Except for tourism in the major cities, there is little beyond low-paying jobs and remittances from family members abroad to keep families afloat.

When he left home he wasn't sure what he was going to study, but was drawn to conservation and environmental management issues. After completing his undergraduate degree at UC Riverside, Jason took up graduate studies at Cal State San Bernardino. A talk by WRI director Susan Lien Longville about the possibilities of computer-based modeling lead him to apply for one of 30 internships available through a USDA grant for students interested in careers in Natural Resources.

Working with GIS and all the possibilities of mapping excites him. "When I learned what you can do with it, I thought 'we can use this stuff in rural Belize.'" Even now, when he goes home to visit family the village council is apt to turn to him with questions about how to approach growth issues.

"We have a serious problem with waste, waste management and sewage treatment," he continued. "There are no groundwater studies or water quality monitoring and development is basically urban sprawl and, in the forested area, a lot of deforestation."

Jason's internship project involves a

case study of a potential development site in Coachella Valley, considering the environmental hazards and benefits of development, using GIS mapping software. The case study will be used for the Alluvial Fan Task Force that the WRI is working on with the California Department of Water Resources.

He hopes to incorporate sustainable land use planning protocols and GIS to model areas of high disaster potential from hurricanes and poor planning in Belize.

"We don't have the planning and natural resources regulations (found elsewhere)," he said. "When I think about Hurricane Katrina and the effects it had on a developed country I can't help but think: what if it happened in Belize? We have nothing and it would be devastating."

He sees opportunity for the country to both celebrate its abundant natural resources, and to build economic development on them. The tooth is a reminder of that. A gift from his grandfather, the tooth came from a jaguar he'd

slaughtered.

"If you ask someone in Belize 'why did you shoot a jaguar?' They will answer: 'Because it's a jaguar,'" he said.

"They don't understand the value of what they have. There are howler monkeys in people's back yards and tapirs and the nearby river—all things that tourists like to see—but there's no jobs."

Ultimately, he'd like to develop a master plan for St. Paul's Bank (pop. 200) that would point out the economic growth and job opportunities for the community. His goal is to create a development template for rural communities.

"It would be a big undertaking," he admits. "They don't even know the village boundaries."

"I left Belize thinking I'd have it done by now," he said, laughing.



*Jason Thomas, Environmental Sciences graduate student and WRI Summer Intern*

**Zias-Roe** *continued from Front page*

of people and we will be able to police water conservation.”

In addition to requiring counties to adopt a landscape water budget component that establishes the maximum amount of water to be applied, the state’s ordinance includes provisions for appropriate use and groupings of plants; promotes the benefits of consistent local ordinances in neighboring areas; encourages capture and retention of storm water onsite to improve water use efficiency and water quality; promotes the use of recycled water and encourages use of economic incentives to promote water use efficiency.

Zias-Roe says she expects the county’s ordinance will basically be the same as the state’s, but specialized to meet the different needs of the county’s desert, mountain and valley regions.

The county ordinance is still being drafted and will be considered by the board of supervisors.

While the state’s ordinance covers

landscaped areas larger than 2,500 square feet, San Bernardino County is going further, with a

voluntary program for builders on smaller parcels.

“Our goal is to make water conservation reach everyone, not just builders of 80 homes or more,” she said.

To that end, the county has set up a voluntary San Bernardino County Green Builder Program. The program will incorporate the state’s existing Green Builder Program, LEED, and the County’s own unique system to encourage green building practices and reduce greenhouse gases.

“The nice thing is that people get used to the idea now before it is mandatory,” she said. “We’re in for some serious water problems.”

Zias-Roe’s talk is set for 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23 at Rialto City Hall, 150 S. Palm Ave., Rialto. Admission is free and the event open to the public.

‘We’re in for some serious water problems,’

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN WATER RESOURCES



*Awards Banquet*

*Save the date*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008**

**RECIPIENT: JOE GRINDSTAFF,  
DIRECTOR OF CALFED**

Also honoring 2008 Water Hero Hubert Webb

