

## 2004 WEF ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD

**...acknowledging extraordinary personal service to the Water Environment Association of Texas. The honoree must be a member of WEAT and should exemplify organizational leadership, administrative service, membership activity, stimulation of technical functions, or similar contributions to WEAT.**

### Cathy Henderson



Cathy Henderson was High School Valedictorian and was granted Valedictory and SAT scholarships to the University of Texas at Arlington, graduating with a B.S. Degree in Biology. She has been employed at the Trinity River Authority Central Regional Wastewater System (TRA-CRWS) laboratory for 25 years. She holds Texas Water Utilities Association Class "A" Lab Analyst Certification and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Class "A" Wastewater Certification and Class "A" Water License. She has been a TCEQ Certified Wastewater Instructor since 1984, providing training for operations personnel at Trinity River Authority and other municipalities in the surrounding area. She has served on the TCEQ Operator Licensing Advisory Committee for three years.

Since joining TRA in 1979, Ms. Henderson has been promoted to increasingly responsible positions (Laboratory Technician II, to Biologist, to Senior Biologist, to Laboratory Supervisor, to Laboratory Division Chief). She was promoted to the position of Quality Assurance/Quality Control Coordinator four years ago. Ms. Henderson was instrumental in setting up the TRA-CRWS Laboratory's bio-monitoring laboratory. For her expertise and dedication to her profession, she received the WEF Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award in 1999.

In addition to her professional duties, Ms. Henderson is involved in numerous professional associations. She has been a member of the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Association of Texas since 1992. As a WEAT member, she has acted as mentor of science fair competitors and has judged science fairs since the late 1980's. She served as the Co-Chair of the WEAT Public Education Committee for the last three years and has assisted with two mini-CAST meetings. She served as the Chair of the WEAT local host committee for the very first on-site national 2003 U.S. National Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition. Her success as local organizer of this event led to her being asked to Chair the position for a second consecutive year. She and her many volunteers have set the benchmark for future SJWP on-site competitions in other states. She currently is a member of the Registration Committee for the Texas Water 2004 annual conference in Arlington, Texas. She has been very active in the North Texas Section of WEAT. She served as the Treasurer for the group for 2001 and 2002 and personally reorganized the accounting system and method of reporting. She has been the NTS WEAT Science Fair Committee Chair for the last six years and serves on the NTS WEAT Scholarship Committee.

Ms. Henderson is also a member of the American Water Works Association and two chapters of the Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA) – the North Texas Lab Analysts Chapter and the White Rock Utilities Association. For the North Texas Lab Analysts Chapter, she has served as President, Secretary/Treasurer (twice), and on the Public Relations Committee. For the White Rock Association, she was the first "Woman of the Month", was the first woman President, and also served as Membership Committee Chair. She teaches Basic Wastewater Lab for student attendees at the TWUA North Central Texas Regional School, has chaired the Wastewater Laboratory Course at the School for the last six years, and has been responsible as Vice-Chair for personally organizing all 18 training courses. In 1997, she was the recipient of the TWUA Public Education Award for her efforts toward improving public awareness of the importance of water and the water utilities industry.

For approximately ten years, Ms. Henderson worked with the "Expanding Your Horizons" program held annually at the University of Texas at Arlington, helping provide hands-on training to adolescent girls in grades 6 through 8 in the areas of math and science. She has participated in numerous career day presentations at all grade levels in the public school system to encourage students to pursue environmental careers. Since 1992, she has been involved with the Texas Watch Citizen's Monitoring group helping monitor water quality in water bodies throughout Texas. She conducts plant tours at the TRA facility for public schools and other groups.

# 2004 WEAT PILLARS OF THE PROFESSION AWARD

**...honoring an individual who has demonstrated meaningful and substantial contributions toward the improvement of the water environment via a distinguished career in the wastewater or water quality industry. The honoree shall be a person of proven preeminence in the water environment profession whose career has positively impacted the success and growth of these fields within the State of Texas.**

## **W. Wesley Eckenfelder, Jr., D.Sc., P.E.**



Dr. W. Wesley Eckenfelder, Jr. earned a B.C.E. in Civil Engineering at Manhattan College-New York City in 1946. He attended post graduate classes at North Carolina State University-Raleigh in 1947 and studied Chemical Engineering. He earned an M.S. in Sanitary Engineering at Pennsylvania State University –University Park in 1948. He earned an M.C.E. in Sanitary Engineering at New York University-New York City in 1954. He was awarded D.Sc. Honorary Doctorate from Manhattan College-New York City in 1990. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.

With a career spanning several decades, Dr. Eckenfelder has had a wide and distinguished professional career in the water environment arena beginning as a Junior Civil Engineer in New York City in 1946. Since then, he has worked as a control chemist and a sanitary engineer for two different industries; as a principal in two engineering firms; founder and president of two separate companies; and

Research Associate and Professor at four different universities including New York University-New York City, Manhattan College-New York City, the University of Texas at Austin, and Vanderbilt University-Nashville. Currently he is Senior Technical Director for Brown and Caldwell in Nashville, Tennessee. In this position, he provides technical direction and overview of projects, particularly those encompassing evaluation and design of industrial treatment facilities, evaluation and development of unique processes, and process applications to municipal and industrial waste treatment. He has extensive industrial consulting experience in all manufacturing industries including chemicals, pulp and paper, food processing, brewing, pharmaceuticals, paint, rubber, textiles, steel, and metal finishing. In the pharmaceutical industry, he has served as process consultant to Merck, SmithKline-Beecham, Pfizer, Ciba-Geigy, and American Cyanamid.

Recognized as one of the world's foremost authorities on industrial water quality management, Dr. Eckenfelder has been responsible over the last forty years for the development of many treatment processes and design principles used throughout the world. He has initiated and conducted many technical training courses for professional engineers on behalf of professional organizations, industries, and governments including 20 continuing education programs in the United States, Europe, South America, Australia, the Middle East, and Asia. His numerous texts and papers are used as fundamental references in the water environment profession. He has served as editor of journals and books, has authored 24 books, has authored 27 chapters in other books, and has authored over 200 scientific and technical papers. He was a founding member and President of the International Association for Water Pollution Research. He has served on 33 state, national, and international committees, boards, and advisory committees for the purpose of environmental engineering, water quality, and environmental standards and research. He has served as consultant for over 100 major U.S. corporations.

Dr. Eckenfelder is affiliated with eighteen different professional organizations related to engineering and the water environment. He has received over thirty-two different awards, honors, and citations from national and international associates for his contributions to environmental protection, innovation, and excellence in environmental chemistry and engineering. Among those are Water Environment Federation awards including the prestigious Honorary Membership and the Thomas R. Camp Medal for Basic Research Contributions to Wastewater Applications.

Dr. Eckenfelder has contributed to the advancement of the water environment profession for nearly six decades in the fields of wastewater research and academia and practice, especially within the State of Texas. As a professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, he significantly increased the quality of higher education in the state's wastewater industry, and his role in recruiting and developing scores of graduate students during his tenure at the University directly impacted the future of the profession in our State. Reference books and textbooks authored by Dr. Eckenfelder are commonly used in engineering offices and universities throughout Texas as well as around the nation and world. He has initiated and conducted numerous technical training courses for Texas professional engineers of behalf of industry and government, and his technical presentations of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Work Sessions at annual WEAT conferences has contributed to the growth and credibility of the Water Environment Association of Texas.

# WEF QUARTER-CENTURY OPERATORS' CLUB

**Membership honors operators of wastewater treatment plants for service and dedication in a difficult and dangerous field. The honoree must be a member of WEF and must have been a significant, full-time participant in the water environment industry for a period of 25 years, 10 years of which must have been actively involved in the day-to-day collections, maintenance, operations, laboratory, or management of a wastewater treatment facility.**

## Meg Conner



Meg Conner earned a B.A. in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.S. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas. She holds Wastewater Treatment Operator "A" and Water Treatment Operator "A" certifications. Ms. Conner began her career in the water environment sector in 1977 as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator in San Marcos, Texas. She has continued in the profession as a Surface Water Plant Operator in Sherman, as a Physical Science Aide for U.S.EPA Region VI, as Project Coordinator for the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, as Public Works Director for the City of Kingsville, and presently as Water Recycling Center (WRC) Operations Director for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) where she is in charge of the operation of four major Water Recycling Centers (the largest wastewater effluent reuse system of its type in the United States) and six minor facilities. As WRC Operations Director, she is responsible for operation and administration of all SAWS Water Recycling Centers totaling over 225 MGD capacity; operation of the 30 MGD capacity Aquifer Storage and Recovery Facility; direct oversight for operational, managerial, and staff employees and indirect oversight of 100 staff members; coordination and management of large construction projects; communication and

reporting with Regulatory Agencies for eight wastewater permits; monitoring of progress and revision of internal programs; development of master planning long range initiatives for both water and wastewater; Corporate Strategic Planning and Business Planning for SAWS Treatment Group; employee training programs/SAWS job family programs; chairmanship and active participation with SAWS safety committees; development of disaster and emergency planning documents; chairmanship and organization of public meetings; implementation of SAWS personnel policies; coordination of projects between City, County, State, and Federal agencies; construction planning, coordination, and oversight; supervision of professional, technical, and labor teams; and development and participation in environmental initiatives such as the Salado Creek Restoration Council and the TMDL Steering Committee. Ms. Conner led SAWS in the development, management approval, and implementation of the Treatment Group Job Family Program that allows employees to advance on the basis of their education, experience, and skill levels at SAWS facilities. This program has led to higher skill levels for employees, improved performance at the workplace, and lower staffing levels and operational costs. She has been instrumental in the development of the Treatment Group Training Facility where she won management approval for an interactive Training Program which led to significant improvement in the number of upper level certified operators in SAWS. She champions the SAWS Good Neighbor Policy and chairs and promotes an active Neighborhood Relations Program.

Ms. Conner has been a member of WEF and WEAT since 1985 and has chaired the local WEAT/TAWWA Chapter of the WATER FOR PEOPLE fundraising committee, has served as a moderator and monitor at WEAT conferences, has regularly attended technical presentations in the local WEAT section, has been a speaker at WEF conferences, and has authored papers for WEAT conferences. She is a member of the American Water Works Association and the Texas Water Utilities Association and holds membership in TWUA's Double-A Club. In recognition of her dedicated career in wastewater operations, Ms. Conner was honored with the Water Environment Federation's William D. Hatfield Award in 2003.

# WEF SERVICE AWARD OUTGOING WEAT PRESIDENT

...for distinguished service to the Member Association (WEAT)

## Ronald B. Sieger



Ronald B. Sieger earned a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering at Iowa State University. He holds professional engineer registrations in Texas and California. As a Vice-President at CH2M HILL, he is involved with wastewater and residuals projects world-wide through his position as Principal Technologist for Residuals Management.

Mr. Sieger is a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Texas Water Utilities Association (TWUA), the International Water Association (IWA), and a Diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE). He has served WEF in many capacities including Chair of the Residuals and Biosolids Specialty Conference (1993 in Phoenix, AZ and 2002 in Austin, TX), Vice Chair of the Residuals and Biosolids Committee (RBC) from 2003 to 2006, founder and Past Chair of the Bioenergy Subcommittee of the RBC from 2002 to 2004, member of the Specialty Conference Committee, member on the Program Committee for the Residuals and Biosolids Symposium, member of the Technical Practice Committee for updating MOP 8 and MOP 11, and member of the Awards Committee. He served three-years as a WEF Director. He has presented numerous technical papers

at national and specialty conferences and authored chapters of three books. He is and has been Project Subcommittee member on several Water Environment Research Foundation projects.

He has enthusiastically contributed his time and expertise to the Water Environment Association of Texas and the North Texas Section of WEAT. Prior to his position as 2003-2004 President, he served WEAT as Vice-President and President-Elect. He has been a member on WEAT's Program Committee for many years and served as the Committee Chair for two terms. He chaired the WEAT Audit Committee for two terms, chaired the Residuals and Biosolids Committee for two terms, and chaired the Research Committee for three terms. He has contributed several articles to WEAT publications and has presented technical papers at numerous state conferences and specialty conferences and has been the featured speaker on many occasions for both WEAT and NTS WEAT functions. For the North Texas Section of WEAT, he has held the offices of President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He was Chair of the Section's Specialty Conference for two years and Chair of the Audit Committee for three years. He originated the Section's newsletter and served as Chair of the Newsletter Committee for over ten years, winning a Watermark Award for his work. He originated the Section's Photography Committee and History Committee and helped organize several other standing committees for the organization. His early and continued support of the North Texas Section Scholarship Fund has helped insure the success of this worthy program.

For his many years of dedicated service in support of WEF and WEAT, Mr. Sieger was honored with the WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award in 2000. In addition, he received the ASCE Samuel Arnold Greeley Award for his technical paper on nutrient removal.