

**WEF ARTHUR SIDNEY BEDELL AWARD  
WEF SERVICE AWARD – OUTGOING WEAT PRESIDENT**

...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.

**Raymond R. Longoria, P.E., DEE**



Upon receiving his Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in civil Engineering from Texas A&M University, Raymond R. Longoria began his engineering career in 1979 as a design engineer with the Texas firm of S. A. Garza Engineers. He joined Freese and Nichols Engineers in 1982 as a project engineer in the company's environmental design group and was elected an Associate of the engineering firm in 1989 and a Principal of the firm in 1991. Mr. Longoria earned his professional engineering license in 1983 and was certified as a Diplomate of Environmental Engineering, with a specialty in water supply/wastewater, by the American Academy of

Environmental Engineers in 1990. He currently serves as the Water and Wastewater Discipline Leader in the Freese and Nichols Dallas office.

During his career, Mr. Longoria has served as a design engineer, project engineer, project manager, and client representative for numerous wastewater and water treatment facilities across Texas. He has been heavily involved in wastewater treatment, water reuse projects, collection, and conveyance systems throughout his 23+ years of professional service. He has been one of the leaders in Texas in providing services to Mexican cities through the IBWC and NadBank after implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, and his international résumé includes multiple wastewater treatment feasibility studies, bid evaluations, and value engineering studies for cities throughout Mexico.

Mr. Longoria is exemplary in his many years of dedicated service to the Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Association of Texas, and the North Texas Section of WEAT. He has served on countless committees and has performed volunteer tasks in service to WEAT at every level of the organization. He has served in leadership positions at all levels of WEAT and has served as chair of multiple local and state level committees. Since 1990, he has served the North Texas Section of WEAT as WEAT Section Representative 1987-1990, Membership Committee Chair 1990-1992, Secretary 1992-1994, Vice-President 1994-95, President Elect 1995-1996, President 1996-1997, and Short Seminar Committee Chair 2000-2002. Since 1997, he has served WEAT as Awards Chair 1997-1998, Program Committee Member 1998-2002, Secretary 1999-2000, Annual Conference Management Co-Chair 2002-2003, Vice-President 2002-03, President Elect 2003-2004, and President 2004-2005.

He has continuously served WEF and WEAT through his promotion and support of fellow organization members such as his constant promotion and support of new members, especially the Young Professional contingent of the organization. He has been instrumental in his participation in other WEAT committees and activities such as his involvement in developing the NTS-WEAT scholarship program.

In addition to his WEF and WEAT activities, he is also a dedicated member of the American Water Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Council of Engineering Companies.

## WEF WILLIAM D. HATFIELD AWARD

...recognizing operators of wastewater treatment plants for outstanding performance and professionalism. The recipient must be a member of WEAT and must have a successful system of reports to superiors that satisfy information requirements and provide a forum for suggestions for improvements. The candidate must have a good public relations program and must contribute to the dissemination of information concerning advancements in the field.

### Michael A. Young



Michael A. Young received his Associate in Applied Science from Mountain View College in Dallas, Texas. Since joining the Trinity River Authority of Texas in 1976 as an Operator Trainee he has worked in various capacities throughout Operations and Maintenance Department of TRA's 162 MGD Central Regional Wastewater System (CRWS), one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in Texas. He has served as Manager of Operations of the plant since 1986 and as Manager of Operations and Maintenance since 1997. He holds Class A Wastewater Certificate of Competency.

He is a member of the Water Environment Federation and holds other professional memberships including the Water Environment Association of Texas and the White Rock Water Utilities Association.

As CRWS Operations and Maintenance Manager, Mr. Young reports directly to the CRWS Project Manager, interfaces in both written and verbal form with other department managers in the day-to-day operation and maintenance at the plant, and provides routine operating and maintenance reports for the facility. He plays a key role in the production of the annual report for the plant. He oversees a staff of 100 employees, and is responsible for all matters pertaining to the daily operations and maintenance of the facility. He has been instrumental in combining both the Operations and Maintenance departments into one unified department, a rare feat in such a large advanced treatment plant. He evaluates, recommends, and implements the use of new materials, technological processes, and procedures at the facility. His blending of hands-on knowledge of the treatment process and mechanical maintenance with new technological concepts ensures reliability and dependability of all plant processes and equipment. He has been instrumental in the development of the 5-Year Plan for the facility, making recommendations for upgrades and modifications based on the newest innovations and advancements in the water environment field. Under his management, the Operations and Maintenance Department has implemented a number of successful programs including the utilization of fine bubble membrane diffusers in aeration basins as well as automated sampling and analyses techniques. As a result of this involvement and research into innovative new technology of plant processes and equipment, the CRWS has been honored numerous times for its successful treatment programs and can boast eleven continuous years of high-quality effluent with less than 2 mg/l of TSS/CBOD annual discharge. He is recognized as a major contributor for the many national, regional, and state awards bestowed upon CRWS over the years.

Mr. Young is heavily involved in the CRWS Safety Program encompassing every aspect of the system including an Employee Training Program that begins on the first day of an individual's employment, an Employee Safety Committee, the Annual Safety Awareness Day, confined space training and competitions, and emergency response training. He actively participates in the CRWS Employee Safety Committee.

Mr. Young shows his dedication and pride in his profession by sharing his talents. He has been involved in numerous past plant tours for the public and contributed his expertise to the development of the security-conscious slide presentation that is substituted for present-day on-site tours following the World Trade Center tragedy of September 11, 2001. He is considered the driving force behind training and supporting the nationally-recognized TRA CRWS'ers, the Water Environment Association of Texas Operations Challenge Team representing his TRA facility in state, regional, and national competitions. He has served as event coordinator of the Challenge activities at both state and regional levels. In his off-time and at his own expense, he has assisted smaller utilities throughout Texas in trouble-shooting plant process problems.

## WEAT EMERGING LEADER AWARD

### Randy Lee Bush



Randy Lee Bush is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. Since 1998, he has worked in the Dallas office of MWH with primary focus on wastewater collection systems, modeling, SSES studies, and master planning.

Randy Bush became an active member of the Water Environment Association of Texas and the Water Environment Federation in 2000 and immediately volunteered to help establish the Texas Young Professionals (YP's) as the Section Representative for the North Texas Section of WEAT. Since then, he has encouraged YP involvement in WEAT activities, encouraged YP membership, worked as a liaison between WEAT leadership and the North Texas Section, and organized YP events at annual Texas Water conferences. He sends regular informative e-mails to all YP's in the NTS region about upcoming events and encourages their feedback on expanding opportunities.

In addition, he has attended NTS Executive Committee and Seminar meetings and has arranged volunteers and served for numerous WEAT and WEF events. For example, when Dallas hosted the 2002 and 2003 Southwest Junior Water Prize (SJWP) programs, he assisted the SJWP Committee by planning hospitality events and activities for the teen contestants. He also recruited YP volunteers to welcome the contestants and their families upon arrival at the airport and then to chaperone them at the numerous activities throughout the week.

In 2002, Randy Bush became a non-voting member of the WEAT Executive Committee when he volunteered to Chair WEAT's State Specialty Conference Committee, a critical position in developing income for WEAT and furthering WEAT's goal of educating people on water environment issues. Under his leadership as Committee Chair, twelve different conferences on strategic water environment topics have been organized in various cities across Texas. He also has been a member of the WEAT Program Committee for the last two years helping select abstracts for presentation at the annual Texas Water conferences.

In addition to his work with WEAT, Randy Bush is an active member of the American Water Works Association and has served the AWWA as a volunteer mentor with the Ford Foundation and the Global Tele-Communities Education Initiative. He also assisted third-grade and fourth-grade Dallas elementary school classes in studying water purification, water conservation, and the water cycle. At the end of the instruction, the students created a PowerPoint presentation on their learning experiences and then shared the information with representatives from Microsoft and other participating schools via a web broadcast.

Randy Bush has set an outstanding example of how Young Professionals can become more involved in their water environment industry through their active support of WEAT goals and through volunteering their talents for committees, recruiting, event participation, and education.

## WEAT MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HEROISM

### James Coleman and Malcolm Evert Cowdin



On the afternoon of June 21, 2004, James Coleman and Malcolm Cowdin, both with the Trinity River Authority's Central Regional Wastewater System, were driving west on Singleton Boulevard toward the TRA facility when they witnessed a man backing a forklift out of a local business driveway. Dangerously close to a drainage ditch, the forklift began teetering on the edge of the drop off. As the driver stood to jump off the forklift, it suddenly toppled into the ditch pinning the driver underneath. Both Coleman and Cowdin rushed over to the overturned forklift hoping the man had escaped injury. They first attempted to manually raise the forklift off the driver. When the forklift proved too heavy for the two men to move, they used the winch

from their TRA work truck and were able to lift the machine just enough to free the man so could be pulled to safety by his co-workers. Malcolm Cowdin then helped carry the injured man to a nearby trailer to wait for 911 emergency personnel to arrive. Because of their immediate and efficient response to this emergency situation, the forklift driver was freed quickly and was able to get prompt medical treatment for his injuries.

James Coleman joined TRA Central on September 1, 1986 as a Seasonal Maintenance Helper. He was promoted to his current position as Maintenance Mechanic II in Field Services Division of Technical Services in 1997.

Malcolm Cowdin joined TRA Central on June 12, 1980 as a Maintenance Mechanic I. In 1982, he was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic II and transferred to the D/FW Pretreatment Facility. In 1988, he was transferred back to Central and is currently a Maintenance Mechanic II in the Engineering and Field Services Division of Technical Services. Malcolm Cowdin is a strong supporter of WEAT and has been a member of WEAT since 1985. He presently serves as the official photographer for the North Texas Section of WEAT.

Coleman and Cowdin provide both TV and walking surveillance of the collection system pipeline supplying the 162 MGD Central Regional Wastewater System and are responsible for minor repairs to the collection system. Since their job places them in the field for a considerable amount of their workday, they were at the right place at the right time to rescue the forklift driver and potentially save the man's life.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

Three WEAT members are recognized for membership recruitment. They are Mary Evans, Steve Kennedy, and Dennis Laskowski.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
5 S SHOVEL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS**

This award is presented to members who recruit five or more members. The recipients are John Bennett, Karen Bick, James Clarno, Steve Hodge, Ramón E. Ortiz-Juan, Steve Kennedy, Dennis Laskowski, Donna Long, Odis Tyler, Cheryl Smith and Jennifer Piper Covington.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

The WEAT Distinguished Service Award is presented to Debbie Bronson of Trinity River Authority for her time and energy creating the new look and layout of the WEAT magazine, Texas WET.

**TEXAS SECTION - AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION  
& WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
JOINT AWARDS  
WATERMARK AWARDS**

The Watermark Award for communications excellence recognizes Texas Section AWWA and WEAT members who have produced top quality communications. Effective internal and external communication is essential to a member's ability to provide excellent service. Today's water resource professionals must communicate with a variety of audiences to achieve success. Through these awards, Texas Section AWWA and WEAT hope to heighten awareness among all water resource professionals about the importance of effective communication.

***Category I: Communications programs: internal campaigns, external campaigns, crisis communications, community relations.***

**Large Utility Small Utility**

San Antonio Water System City of Waco Water Utility Services  
2004 Charity Campaign Water Conservation Campaign 2004  
Terry Kemmy Dori Helm

***Category II: Periodicals: magazines or newsletters (black & white or color).***

**Large Utility Non-utility**

Austin Water Utility Water Conservation Division Freese and Nichols  
Water Wise Electronic Newsletter FN/AquaAlert  
Tony Gregg Tina Hanson  
22 Texas Water™ 2005 Awards Program

***Category III: Publications: annual reports, brochures, direct mail materials and other multipage publications.***

*Full-color*

**Large Utility Non-utility**

San Antonio Water System Lower Colorado River Authority  
2003 End of Year Report - We Are Your Stewards Texas Hill Country Landscape Driving

Terry Kemmy, Manuel Garcia Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman

*Black & White or 2-color*

**Large Utility**

City of Fort Worth Water Department

Water Conservation Brochure

Scheretta Scott

***Category IV: Annual water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports).***

**Large Utility Small Utility**

City of Fort Worth Water Department City of Waco Water Utility Services

2004 Water Quality Report 2004 Water Quality Report

Mary Gugliuzza Dori Helm

***Category V: Web Sites***

**Large Utility**

San Antonio Water System

SAWS E-Bill Web Site

Promise Murrell, Michael Graef, Jason Judge

[www.saws.org/Service/ebill](http://www.saws.org/Service/ebill)

***Category VI: School Curriculum***

**Large Utility Non-utility**

Austin Water Utility Water Conservation Division Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Water in Our World Fifth Grade Curriculum River of Life Interdisciplinary Curriculum

Tony Gregg Judy Gardner

***Category VII: Writing releases, features, scripts, speeches, public service announcements, etc.***

**Large Utility**

Arlington Water Utilities

PSA - Citizen Awareness & Reporting on Water Main Breaks

Julie Hunt

***Category VIII: Audio and visual: photography, videos, slide shows, etc.***

**Large Utility Small Utility**

San Antonio Water System City of Waco Water Utility Services

Aquifer Storage and Recovery Video Kid's Commercial — Conservation

Manuel Garcia Dori Helm

***Category IX: Miscellaneous: logos, one-time advertisements, posters, illustrations and invitations.***

**Large Utility Non-utility**

San Antonio Water System Upper Trinity Regional Water District

2005 Infrastructure Public Meetings "Keep It Clean" Logo

Anne Hayden Jason Pierce

**WATERMARK HONORABLE MENTION**

The judges deemed .ve entries as worthy of receiving an honorable mention certi.cate.

***Category I: City of Fort Worth Water Department***

H2Online: Online Bill Pay Service

Scheretta Scott

***Category III: Austin Water Utility Water Conservation Division***

Annual Free Toilet Program Mailer

Tony Gregg

***Category IV: City of Wichita Falls***

2004 Drinking Water Quality Report

Daniel Nix

***Category V: San Antonio Water System***

SAWS Online Construction Status Board

Promise Murrell, Michael Graef, Jason Judge,

Lucio Tovar, Diana Tamez, Hilda Bustos

[www.saws.org/infrastructure/construction](http://www.saws.org/infrastructure/construction)

***Category VIII: San Antonio Water System***

A Beautiful Yard...A Safer Environment

Calvin R. Finch, Ph.D.

24 Texas Water™ 2005 Awards Program