

## **WELLS AND THE WELL-BEING OF OREGON**

**The Northwest Viticulture Center, 215 Doaks Ferry Road NW, Salem, OR**

**December 11, 2008**

**Sponsored by the Institute for Water and Watersheds and Oregon Sea Grant Extension**

### **Keynote Speaker: Kevin, McCray, CAE**

Executive Director, National Ground Water Association



Kevin McCray, CAE, is the executive director of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA).

McCray first joined NGWA in 1979 as an editor with the Association's publishing operations. In addition to editorial positions, McCray has served in marketing, education, and knowledge products positions, as well as the first executive director of The American Ground Water Trust. His ground water industry experience also includes time within the Franklin Electric Company's marketing department. He has served as NGWA executive director since 1995.

In addition to executive director of NGWA, McCray is the chief executive of the National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation, the Foundation for Affordable Drinking Water, and the National Ground Water Insurance Agency, Inc.

McCray has served on a number of water-related advisory groups, including the U.S. Water Resources Export Council, Water Systems Council, U.S. Department of Commerce mission to Australia and New Zealand, U.S. EPA/AWWA Comprehensive Integrated Resource Cooperative Blue Ribbon Panel, Kellogg Foundation Ground Water Education Consortium, to name a few.

He earned the designated "Certified Association Executive" in 1989 from the American Society of Association Executives. He recently completed a term as chair of the CEO Task Force for the group, and has served on the Executive Management Section Council of that organization. In 2005, he successfully led an effort to amend the Ohio Revised Code to permit not-for-profit associations to use telecommunications technology for decision making and voting. McCray is a member of the Ohio Society of Association Executives, as well as the Association Forum of Chicagoland. He has served as a planning facilitator for several state associations, and as a reviewer for the *Journal of Association Leadership*. He has written for *Association Now* magazine.

In 2003, McCray published *A Shouting of Orders, A History of the 99<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment*, a 646-page non-fiction account of this Civil War unit. The book won a state award for local history in 2005. He is presently restoring a 1967 MG Midget automobile.

He is presently pursuing a master's degree in leadership studies from Duquesne University. He holds undergraduate degrees from Bowling Green State University in journalism and in secondary education.

In addition to his ground water industry experience, McCray has taught high school, and worked in several marketing and public relations positions. He and his wife Gayle are the parents of two adult aged children.

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### **Featured Speaker: Melinda Kassen**

Western Water Project Managing Director, Trout Unlimited



Melinda Kassen directs Trout Unlimited's Western Water Project, whose staff work in five Rocky Mountain states to protect, reconnect and restore healthy stream flows primarily through state level advocacy and landowner partnerships. She opened TU's Water Project with the Colorado office in 1998. Her previous professional experience includes stints: prosecuting domestic violence and other crimes in Los Angeles; representing the Colorado Water Quality Control Division and Commission, State Engineer and Water Conservation Board with the Colorado Attorney General's Office; handling water and toxics matters – including the Two Forks Dam campaign – at the Environmental Defense Fund; teaching Environmental and Administrative Law at the University of Denver's College of Law; serving as Environmental Counsel to the US House of

Representatives Armed Services Committee; and working for ICF Kaiser and Kaiser-Hill on cleaning up and funding federal facilities, primarily the Rocky Flats Plant.

She serves as the Governor's environmental and recreation water user appointee to the Inter-Basin Compact Committee, a legislatively established body whose mission is to foster agreement among Colorado water interests. Previously, she served on the Rocky Flats Citizens Monitoring Council, created by Colorado's Governor and the US Representative for Colorado House District #2. She is a frequent speaker on water and other matters and has published nine articles on water and federal facilities issues.

Raised in Ohio, she received her AB from Dartmouth College *magna cum laude* and her JD from Stanford Law School.