Our Mission

By Tom Tracey, CIC, CID, CLIA, IANY President

Time and again I hear that many irrigation systems waste nearly 50 percent of the water used. Summer water



usage increases up to five times over winter use due mostly to irrigation. Therefore, irrigation becomes an easy target for those policymakers who may be looking to create policies to conserve water. Many states and municipalities have in the past adopted water-conservation policies limiting lawn watering during times of short supply or drought. At other times, cities or water suppliers have issued moratoriums on the installation of new sprinkler systems.

We all agree that if the choice is between drinking water and lawn watering, it's an obvious choice. We here in the Northeast, at this time, don't have to make that choice. But that is not true in other states. Changing climate conditions have created severe flooding in some areas and prolonged droughts in others. We can't be sure that future severe weather condi-

tions won't cause water supply issues in New York.

We all must be good stewards of our natural resources. We must help lawmakers make informed decisions. This has been a main focus of the Irrigation Association of New York for over 15 years. IANY has helped shape and support a legislative bill to require irrigation contractors be certified. The bill passed through committees and changes were made.

In 2006, New York State Senator Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Thomas DiNapoli, as part of the state's conservation committee, introduced the Environmental Protection Fund Enhancement Act. The legislation was to increase funding of environmental programs to protect the health and well-being of New York families. We thought that the bill to require irrigation certification was right in concert with protecting the environment and would surely pass. But Albany politics prevailed over common sense and the good of the people. The New York State Irrigation Certification Bill slowly got whittled away to nothing.

Local environmental and water-quantity and -quality issues continue to make headlines in newspapers. Many groups on Long Island are concerned about the sole source aquifer that supplies the drinking water for Nassau and Suffolk counties – nearly 3 million people. Several studies have shown that Long Island receives more annual rainfall to recharge the aquifers than is pumped from the ground for all of the many water uses. However, there are problem areas on Long Island's North Shore peninsulas and on the East End. Public water-supply wells in those areas are in danger of saltwater intrusion. The increase in population and the increase in landscape irrigation are stressing those water systems. Huge investment in the infrastructure is needed now. Large water mains may need to be run from the more abundant wells to stressed systems. Even when or if these improvements are made, water conservation and sound policies on irrigation are necessary.

continued next page



IANY Offers N.Y. State D.O.T. Vehicle Compliance Course

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Upsky Long Island Hotel, 110 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, N.Y.

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We can't afford to wait until it's too late. It is critical to plan ahead and start conserving water now. We realize that efficient irrigation can still be effective at maintaining a healthy landscape without being wasteful. Proper irrigation policies and practices will help reduce that strain on the water systems and still keep our green spaces alive. IANY has continued to work on getting this message out.

With Albany politics in stalemate, IANY's legislative efforts lately have turned more locally. It appears that many individual, towns, counties and water companies are looking to create their own regulations to conserve water. We have been working on presenting the benefits to these policy makers whereever possible. This is why we feel that the main mission of IANY can be summed up as promoting water conservation through efficient irrigation.

Our association was created to help the irrigation industry in New York. We need your help. Please contact IANY if you find that your area of the state is concerned with water conservation. We are looking to help shape those regulations to the benefit of all.

Call for NominationsTo maintain the proper balance of experience and new faces on the IANY board of trustees, the association's bylaws require rotating membership. This necessitates elections each spring. At the March general meeting, elections will be held to fill the positions of Dennis Realmuto, Rich Silverman and Bobby Winter, whose terms of office expire terms of office expire.

IANY is soliciting nominations to fill vacated positions. If you would like to serve on the board or to nominate someone to run for a position on the board, please submit to info@IANY.org. As soon as possible after the elections, the board will convene to elect officers for the year ahead.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 9. Watch for details.



No, not to join the Army, but rather to join the IANY Board of Trustees.

These are challenging times for the irrigation industry, and the board is always looking for people with additional ideas to both help our businesses grow and to protect us from those who would eliminate us. We seek those who also care about protecting our precious water resources through responsibly and professionally installed irrigation systems.

Are you prepared to help support the cause? Contact IANY President Tom Tracey at tomtraceyd2a@optonline.net.



2016 Winter Education Series – Irrigation Association of New York



DAY AND TIME	COURSE	COST	
Monday 2/22/16	CID-CERTIFIED IRRIGATION DESIGNER COURSE	Member \$295	
8am-4pm Tuesday 2/23/16 8am-12pm	Become a certified irrigation designer and: Add instant credibility with customers and employers. Increase job opportunities.	Second person \$270 Non Member \$325 Second person \$300	
	 Demonstrate your commitment to efficient water management Qualify for the EPA WaterSense Program (commercial, golf courses and residential specialties). 		
	Certification gives you a competitive edge! INSTRUCTOR: CHRIS PINE OF C. PINE ASSOCIATES, INC. WWW.CPINEASSOCIATES.COM		
	One exam will follow the course on February 23 rd . The first test fee is an additional \$200 and you must register and make payment to the IA prior to taking the test. The other two exams must be taken within one year.		
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Understanding the Water Below -- Long Island's Groundwater

By Sarah J. Meyland, M.S., J.D.

If you are in a water-related business on Long Island, there is a lot you should know about groundwater. Here is a thumbnail overview of key information about water use and the aquifer system that provides all Long Island's water.

What is an aquifer? It is a geological formation (sand and gravel on Long Island) that stores, transmits and yields useable quantities of water, known as groundwater. Certain formations, such as clay, store large amounts of groundwater, but do not release it to pumping and thus, are not aquifers.

The aquifer system beneath Long Island – made up of three main aquifers: Upper Glacial, Magothy and Lloyd – is designated a sole-source aquifer, meaning it provides 50 percent or more of a community's water. Long Island's aquifers provide 100 percent of the region's water. The designation is given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

All the freshwater in the aquifers comes from precipitation (rain, snow, etc.). Average annual rainfall on Long Island is about 44-46 inches. Half of this water (approx. 22-23 inches) will seep through the sandy soils and into the aquifers to become groundwater; a process is known as recharge. In 2015, rainfall was about nine inches below average, meaning that less water than normal replenished the aquifer system.

Per-person water use on Long Island is above the national average. Water use on Long Island swings between winter use, which is about 80-100 gallons per person per day, to summer use which increases by 200 to 400 percent, and is the highest in the Northeast. The majority of water use in the summer is outdoor use for irrigation, but also includes swimming pools and water features.

There are many misunderstandings about the consequences of taking too much water from the aquifers and how much water is available. Here are the basics.

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The U.S. Geological Survey reports that the amount of water stored in the aquifers is around 90 trillion gallons. While it sounds like a tremendous amount, you should know that we can only withdraw between 5 to 10 percent of that water through pumping. That means the available water is about 4.5 to 9 trillion gallons. But, in order to protect the groundwater from saltwater intrusion and the loss of streams, wetlands, ponds and lakes, it is essential that the majority of the total groundwater should stay in the aquifers.

Thus, the total amount of water that the aquifers can safely produce is significantly less than the total amount of water in the system.

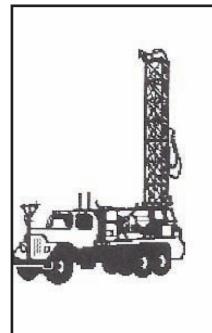
Another key point is that most groundwater recharge occurs during the months October through March. Once the weather warms and the growing season begins, very little recharge occurs. From April through September, when recharge is at its lowest, the water demand is at its highest. This puts great stress on the aquifers, lowering the water table, removing billions of gallons of water and reducing the pressure that groundwater exerts to keep the ocean from invading the coastal parts of the aquifers.

When it rains or when lawns and gardens are watered during the summer, virtually all the water that is not taken up by the plants evaporates or runs off and is not returned to the aquifers. This is contrary to the popular notion that excess lawn watering simply puts water back into the aquifers. So, water waste is a real downside to poor irrigation practices, because wasted water is lost from the aquifer system without any benefit. This is why it is so tragic to see lawn irrigation systems spraying full blast during a summer rain storm.

The challenge is to find better techniques and technologies that put the water in the soil where the plants need it and not in the air where it evaporates. The soil too warms and contributes to evaporation after plants have absorbed the water they need. This is why recharge is so low during the summer.

We do not have an unlimited amount of water in the aquifer system. Nassau County needs to reduce the overall amount of water taken from the aquifers. Suffolk County has more leeway regarding quantity, but if it wants to keep its rivers and streams full then there are limits to the amount of water that should be pumped from its portion of the aquifers too. Water conservation is an issue that will be receiving much more attention in the coming years. Summer water use will be the biggest target for limiting water waste and excessive use. We all need to work together to find the most effective and reasonable ways to preserve and manage this essential natural resource beneath Long Island.

Sarah Meyland is director of the Center for Water Resources Management at New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, N.Y.



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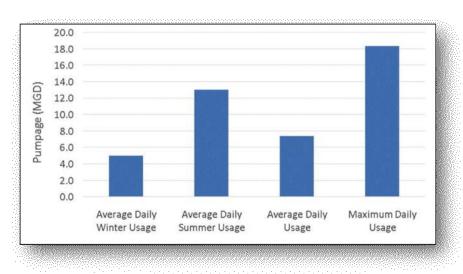
By Paul J. Granger, P.E.



As we enter the doldrums of winter, the thoughts of green lawns and lush landscaping are just a memory at this time. This now provides water suppliers much need time to plan perform facility maintenance to prepare for the peak spring and summer water pumping season. The warm weather months will increase our outdoor activities and water use dramatically. Therefore it is never too early to plan ahead!

Typical daily average residential water use on Long Island is approximately 140 gallons per person. Water utilization is typically relegated to indoor use during the cold winter months, with less than 4 percent being used for actual consumption. Remarkably during the summer, average water use more than doubles compared to winter usage. Peak summer pumpage is more than triple aver-

age winter usage, as illustrated below for a typical Long Island water system.



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So what causes this dramatic increase in water use when the weather gets warm? Obviously hot and dry weather conditions and the desire to keep our lawns nice and green are the culprits. However, over the past three decades the installation of residential automatic underground lawn irrigations systems has significantly contributed to escalated summertime water use. Such systems are more prevalent as means to increase real estate values, and as residents place a higher emphasis on property beautification through landscaping investment and maintenance.

The ease of use and automatic operation of the irrigation systems make lawn and landscape watering a simple task that requires little thought and effort. Since water is abundant on Long Island and costs tend to be very low when compared to other utilities, there is very little incentive to conserve our precious natural resource. However long term changes in weather patterns can significantly impact our groundwater resource. All we need to do is look to the West Coast and take note of the significant effects of the drought in California. During the 1960's Long Island experienced a long-term drought that drastically lowered groundwater elevations. In this era of climate change, history can and probably will repeat itself. Therefore now is the time to develop good habits and simple sustainable practices that will promote the efficient use our vital drinking water supply.

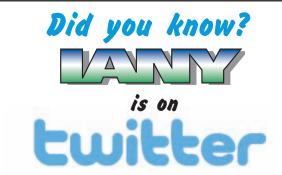
Studies disseminated by the local county Cornell Cooperative Extensions have concluded that lawns on Long Island tend to be over-irrigated. It has been determined that the irrigation of lawns every other day at a rate of 1 inch per week is sufficient for most areas of Long Island. Because of the significant water use associated with lawn irrigation, it is easy to identify lawn-sprinkling measures as a logical and simple approach to promote the efficient use of the drinking water supply.

So what can the typical resident do to become a sustainable water user while maintain a green landscape? Start by watering every other day rather than every day. Daily watering is not necessary and too much water can actually cause more harm than good to lawns. To minimize water loss through evaporation, avoid irrigating on windy days and when temperatures are at the highest – generally midday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Take advantage of simple, low-cost technology to promote water sustainability. Smart controllers and rain sensors on lawn irrigation systems will automatically adjust water usage based on weather and soil-moisture conditions. The sensors can override an automated timer and shut the system down during rain events. Similarly moisture sensors can sense the moisture in the soil and can override the system controller to avoid overwatering. Don't be surprised if there will be an App out for that in the near future!

Outdoor water sustainability is simple, effective and makes sense. All it starts is with you and your lawn. Saving water today will ensure an abundant supply for now and well into the future.

Paul Granger is superintendent of the Port Washington Water District.



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14th Annual IANY Golf Outing



SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016 The Vineyards Golf Club Riverhead, N.Y

WATCH FOR DETAILS



2015 Irrigation Show Takes Long Beach

Last November, the Irrigation Association wrapped up its annual Irrigation Show & Education Conference in Long Beach, Calif., where the association welcomed over 4,500 participants and 300 exhibiting companies.



The Irrigation Show is the only national trade show for the irrigation industry and serves as the perfect backdrop for professionals to see the latest industry technologies, conduct business, learn best practices and network with peers. The Irrigation Association of New York was recognized in the on-site show guide for its help in promoting the national event.

IA and the American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers held the 2015 Irrigation Symposium in conjunction with the annual Irrigation Show. The event included a poster session on the show floor and more than 50 peer-reviewed papers with presentations on a wide range of topics in agricultural and landscape irrigation, such as:

- Evapotranspiration
- Ground-based and remote sensing for irrigation
- Spatial irrigation management with center pivots
- Deficit irrigation strategies
- Irrigation management with variable rate irrigation systems
- Microirrigation for improving production and reducing environmental concerns
- Irrigation controllers and sensors
- Irrigation scheduling and management
- Sustainability

IA also offered more than 20 different agriculture, turf/landscape and business education classes, in addition to landscape irrigation seminars for contractors. Attendees earned IA continuing education units for all education at the show. In the coming months, select seminars will be available for purchase in the IA store.

Finally, IA offered certification exams for irrigation technicians, contractors, auditors, designers and water managers throughout the week. More than 130 industry professionals sat for an exam on-site at the show.



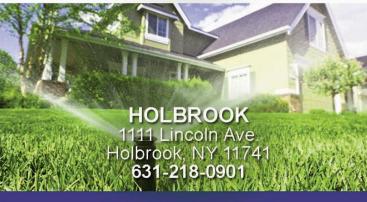
Planning for the 2016 Irrigation Show, Dec. 5-9, in Las Vegas is already underway. IA will partner with the National Ground Water Association to co-locate with their annual event, Groundwater Week. Stay tuned to www.irrigationshow.org for more details.



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IA's Contractor Common Interest Group

By Richard Silverman, CIC



This past November, I attended the Irrigation Show & Education Conference in Long Beach, Calif., and represented the Irrigation Association of New York. As always, the national Irrigation Association did an excellent job of bringing together a great conference of manufacturer, distributor, education, technical and business seminars. There was much to do within the four days I was there.

In addition to all of the above, there were specific seminars for landscape irrigation contractors such as the Turf Talk Round Table Discussion and the Contractor Common Interest Group (CCIG). Both groups focus on the needs of the landscape irrigation contractors and all the issues we encounter in our businesses. It's always good to talk

to your peers and learn from them as well as providing your knowledge and expe-

rience.

For the past two years, I served as vice chair of the CCIG, and this year I was chosen to be the chairperson for 2016-2017. I look forward to serving and working with landscape irrigation contractors throughout North America. In the past we arranged seminars that focused on the business side of the industry. This includes discussions and presentations on employee hiring and retention, marketing, growth, social media, management, licensing, certification and the like. These events were well-attended and positive.

I plan to continue recommending business-oriented seminars. In addition to events at the national conference, we have assembled and provided monthly webinars – many at little or no cost – that have been well-attended by contractors everywhere. My goal for this coming year is to get contractors involved in participating, and to take advantage of everything this industry has to offer.

Too many times I meet with contractors who are unaware of their national and local associations or just don't have the time to become involved. I recognize that, and I appreciate their honesty. I plan to make learning simple and easier for contractors. Our industry has changed dramatically, and competing and staying profitable is becoming increasingly difficult. I do believe that we can operate and be



Watch for details.

successful only if we work together to improve our image and the service we provide. To be successful today we all need to raise the bar and do a better job of servicing our clients or else they'll move on! The Irrigation Association, nationally and locally, and the Contractor Common Interest Group is are best ways to stay in touch and be involved. To get the most for your hard work join us. You can learn more by visiting www.iany.org, www.ia.org and www.linkedin.com. At LinkedIn, you can join the group: Contractor Common Interest Group. To learn the dates of the upcoming webinars visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IrrigationAssociationofNewYork. The IANY General Meeting is March 9, and I look forward to seeing your there! I appreciate feedback; you can reach me via email at rsilverman@rainrich.com. Enjoy your winter!

IANY General Membership Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

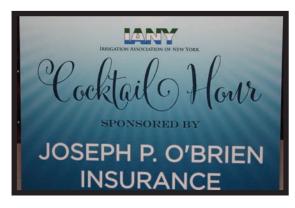
Wednesday evening, March 9, 2016 Election of trustees Guest speaker

WATCH FOR DETAILS



Through the Lens

December 2015 General Meeting

















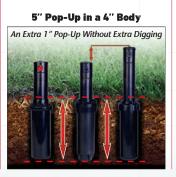
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