



Staying Engaged in the Groundwater World

April 30, 2020

Office closures and remote work situations due to COVID-19 may impact employees' workloads, particularly those staff that typically work in the field or engage directly with the public. It has also affected the ability for professionals to attend conferences or participate in other learning opportunities. To keep you and your staff engaged during these times of potentially reduced workloads, you may want to consider using available time for online professional growth opportunities such as videos, podcasts, and certifications.

Videos

- The [TAGD YouTube channel](#) hosts recordings of presentations from the last three Texas Groundwater Summits.
- Texas Water Development Board hosts conference presentations, groundwater videos, drought updates, and more on its [YouTube channel](#).
- [North Plains GCD's YouTube channel](#) has dozens of videos related to agricultural water conservation. Attend a Virtual Field Day, learn how soil moisture is measured, or view recordings of the award-winning Master Irrigator curriculum.
- The Groundwater Foundation offers [several webinars](#) related to groundwater.
- [Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District](#) offers a list of groundwater resource videos, some general and some with a local focus.
- For educational videos, including the new Water Law Wednesday series, visit [High Plains Water District's YouTube Channel](#).
- The Texas Master Naturalist Texas Waters program hosts monthly webinars, with recordings available on the [Texas Parks & Wildlife Department site](#).

Certifications

- [Project WET](#) is an online training for a water-related activity guide with over 70 lessons for all age groups and settings.



- Sharpen your GIS skills with [online classes](#) (some including certification) from ESRI.
- [Professional Rainwater Harvesting Class](#) from the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association is a self-paced online course.
- Social media management website [Hootsuite](#) offers learning modules and certifications. Social media is more important now than ever!

Depending on education and professional background (and if permitted by your district's employment policy), it may be a good time for employees to work toward obtaining a relevant professional certification. Here are a few that GCD employees and other members might be interested in:

- National Ground Water Association offers a [Certified Groundwater Professional](#) program for scientists and engineers.
- [Certified Administrative Professional](#) is a credential offered by the International Association of Administrative Professionals.
- Public relations professionals can work toward [APR: Accredited in Public Relations](#).

Podcasts

- Water communications consultant Rogue Water has 90 [podcasts](#) with topics ranging from leadership to customer service, all with a focus on the water industry.
- [Texas Water Symposium](#) is a radio show hosted by Hill Country Alliance through a partnership with Texas Public Radio.
- [Words on Water](#) is a podcast from Water Environment Federation. Most are wastewater-related, but there are over 130 episodes to choose from.
- Fort Worth Water started the [H2OMG](#) podcast last year to talk about the variety of ways that water touches peoples' lives.