



## Lexington Is Site For 19th Annual Drillers Workshop

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The Kentucky Ground Water Association's Meeting and 19th Annual Drillers' Workshop / Trade Show will be held at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington, Ky. March 4 and 5. After several years in Louisville, the workshop has moved to a more central location. The Holiday Inn North is located on Newtown Pike just off I-64/I-75 Exit 115 in Lexington.

Errors in December issues of newsletters from the South Atlantic Jubilee and the Kentucky Ground Water Association listed the workshop as again being held in Louisville. Look for corrections in future mailings from the Kentucky Ground Water Association.

Please note that checks are to be made payable to the Kentucky Ground Water Association and sent to its Mayfield, Ky. address. For more information, contact Holly Lyell or Alan Burgess at (270) 251-3004.

## James Webb Named Technical Services Section Supervisor

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James Webb has been named supervisor of the Groundwater Branch's Technical Services Section replacing David Leo who took another position within the Division of Water. Mr. Webb has been in the Groundwater Branch since 1989 and was at one time the Water Well Drillers Certification Program Coordinator. For the past eight years, his primary duty has been coordinating the statewide ambient groundwater monitoring program and NPS (Nonpoint Source) projects in the Kentucky, Salt and Licking River basins.

Mr. Webb worked in the oil business in Texas and Kentucky before being employed by the Groundwater Branch. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Geology from the University of Kentucky.

## Revised Web Site

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The Groundwater Branch's Web site has been revised since the last issue of the Kentucky Driller Quarterly. The new address is:  
<http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/gwdrill/>

## Board Meeting

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The next scheduled meeting of the Kentucky Water Well Certification Board will be Thursday, March 4, at the Kentucky Ground Water Association Workshop in the Holiday Inn North, Lexington, Ky. starting at 1 p.m.

The meeting will be open to all drillers and the public.

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# Accurate Bacteria Sampling from Water Wells

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Bacteria samples can easily be contaminated during collection. Contaminated samples may indicate poor sampling procedure rather than a contaminated aquifer. You the driller can take a few easy extra steps to prevent contamination during sampling.

1. Collect the sample as close to the well as possible. Plumbers are not required by law to disinfect the plumbing they install and their contaminated piping can contaminate clean well water.
2. Avoid collecting samples from “Frost Proof” hydrants and spigots. The design allows bacteria to grow in these fixtures.
3. Avoid taking samples from swivel faucets. The “O” ring sealed swivel connection is difficult to clean and provides a place for bacteria to grow.
4. Remove the aerator from the faucet before collecting a sample. These complex moist assemblies of plastic and screen are great for growing bacteria. Back splashing from hand washing and food preparation, can quickly re-contaminate aerators with bacteria.
5. Before sampling, let the water run full force for several minutes to “flush” the piping as much as possible. You want fresh groundwater, not stagnate water that has been sitting in the pipes. Wash your hands well with soap and water while you are letting the water run to reduce the chance of your contaminating the sample. Turn the water flow down to a fast trickle when you are ready to sample.
6. Do not open the sample bottle until you are ready to take the sample. You can contaminate the bottle with bacteria if you touch or breathe on the inside portion of the bottle. Handle the bacteria-sampling bottle as if it is full of very strong muratic acid. Open it carefully away from your head and take great care not to touch the inside of the bottle and cap. Do not let the faucet touch the inside of the bottle or cap.  
Fill the bottle up to the line and seal it. Enclose the bottle in a zippered sandwich bag, and place it in a cooler of ice for transport to the lab. The ice slows the growth of any bacteria in the sample. If transported warm, such as in a truck cab in summer, a single bacteria cell in a sample can divide into many bacteria.
7. If the sample is positive for bacteria, re-disinfect the well and plumbing before collecting another sample. The “Routine Water Well Maintenance and Disinfection Guide” explains the procedure and is available from the Groundwater Branch as a paper copy or as a downloadable electronic file. The link for this document is: [http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/gwwellproblems/GWB-tech\\_assist\\_well\\_publ.htm](http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/gwwellproblems/GWB-tech_assist_well_publ.htm)
8. If the pump is not installed, be sure to disinfect the bailer with isopropyl alcohol or chlorine at the site before collecting a sample. Disinfect your hands with the waterless anti-bacteria hand cleaner before collecting the sample.
9. If you ever get into the situation where your sample results don’t agree with someone else’s testing, collect a sample and take it to a laboratory that is certified by the state for microbiological testing for drinking water. The link for a list of laboratories certified for drinking water testing is: <http://www.water.ky.gov/dw/profi/certlabs/>

Following these few guidelines can help ensure that you are collecting valid bacteria samples. If you have any questions concerning bacteria sample collection, please call anyone in the Technical Services Section of the Groundwater Branch at (502) 564-3410.

Phil O’dell and James Webb, Groundwater Branch

## Death of Driller

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In October of last year, the Groundwater Branch learned of the death of Kermit Pinkerton. Mr. Pinkerton, 85, had owned and operated Pinkerton Drilling Company in Rush, Ky. for 50 years. He was certified with the state of Kentucky from Sept. 12, 1985, to Aug. 30, 1996.

Our sympathy goes out to his family.

## Training Opportunities

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### Iowa Water Well Association Annual Convention and Trade Show

West Des Moines, Iowa  
January 29-30, 2004  
Phone: (515) 243-1558

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### North Carolina Ground Water Association

**Annual Trade Show**  
Burlington, N.C.  
January 30-31, 2004  
Register at [www.ncgwa.org](http://www.ncgwa.org)  
Phone: (919) 876-0687

### 19th Annual Kentucky Ground Water Association Workshop and Trade Show



**Holiday Inn North**  
**Lexington, Ky.**  
March 4-5, 2004



Contact Holly Lyell at (270) 251-3004

Look for details and applications in the Kentucky Ground  
Water Association Newsletter.

## Reminders

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**In order to use training other than the Kentucky Ground Water Association's Annual Drillers' Workshop, you MUST contact Joe Moffitt, or Harold Lee at the Groundwater Branch. Phone: (502) 564-3410.**

**Remember to obtain proper attendance documentation when attending any training for your continuing training requirement. This includes a signed certificate, training card or letter along with an agenda.**

## Groundwater Protection Plans

Generic Groundwater Protection Plans (GPP) for well drillers are available. Drillers are required to keep and implement a GPP. Also, generic GPPs for domestic wells and septic systems are available to homeowners. These GPPs can be located on the Groundwater Branch's Web site at: <http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwprotection/gwplans/> or by contacting Pat Keefe at (502) 564-6120, Ext. 4565



## Call Before You Dig

Kentucky Underground Protection, Inc., is a nonprofit organization established to provide a communication link between excavators and operators of underground utilities.

KRS 367.4901 to 367.4917 requires that you call two business days before you dig in the state of Kentucky.

The toll free number to call is:

**1-800-752-6007**

In Louisville, (502) 266-5123

**Kentucky Driller Quarterly is a publication of the Kentucky Division of Water.**

**Inquiries should be made to:**

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**All contributors to this issue are employees of the Division of Water.**

**Visit the Groundwater Branch, Technical Services page, on the Internet at:**

**<http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/gwdrill/>**

**E-mail: [Harold.Lee@ky.gov](mailto:Harold.Lee@ky.gov)**



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Department for Environmental  
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