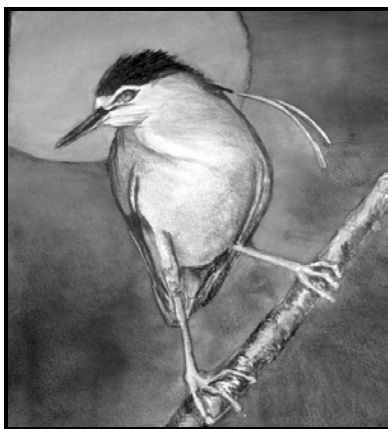


Don't Miss Elizabeth Hacker At the Pine Forest Antique & Garden Show



OCN columnist and bird illustrator, Elizabeth Hacker, has been invited to show and sell her work at the Pine Forest Antique and Garden Show. She will be demonstrating the technique she uses to illustrate her birds.

April 20th & 21st



Don't miss this opportunity to meet her, purchase her original illustrations, and talk birds!

formally request that the commission adopt new site specific permit limits of 16 µg/l (average) and 25 µg/l (peak), the best performance that the plant can currently be reasonably expected to achieve. The facility's recommendation will be presented by the facility's environmental attorney Tad Foster. This recommendation is based on nearly a decade of studies that led to creation of a biotic ligand model by the environmental engineering firm GEI Consulting. There were no copper limitations in existence or planned when the plant was constructed in 1998 and won an EPA award as a peak state-of-the-art facility.

The average and maximum flows through the plant were 1.05 and 1.14 million gallons per day, well below the plant's rated capacity of 4.2 million gallons per day. As usual, Monument had the highest concentration of wastes in its wastewater, due to having the fewest leaks of groundwater into its collection line infrastructure. These leaks dilute the wastewater. Woodmoor had the highest total amount of wastes due to having over three times the number of customers of either Monument or Palmer Lake.

Monitoring report

Eleven wastewater entities are now confirmed members of the new Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AFCURE), from Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility south to the City of Pueblo. These 11 wastewater plants, including Colorado Springs Utilities, have joined the new statewide Colorado Monitoring Framework association as a single watershed member. AFCURE will have only one vote for the Monument/Fountain Creek watershed, rather than each member paying an individual membership fee and having its own vote at Colorado Monitoring Framework meetings.

At this time the other members of the framework will be the wastewater plants that are members of South Platte Coalition for Urban River Evaluation (SPCURE). SPCURE already collects monitoring data for wastewater facilities in the South Platte River basin and will run the Framework as a separate project for now.

Burks presented a draft nutrient monthly monitoring

report spreadsheet for January that included an upstream grab sample taken from Monument Creek at Arnold Avenue, a downstream grab sample taken from Monument Creek at Baptist Road, and a same-day sample of the plant's treated effluent. The data reported for each of these three locations were time of day and flow rates, plus test results for ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, TIN, TKN, TN, and TP. Burks began formally collecting this nutrient data for submission to the state and EPA in February.

The JUC asked Burks to share his draft spreadsheet format with the other members of AFCURE to arrive at a standard format for every wastewater treatment facility to use. These data points can then be used to convert the data to a variety of graphical formats for analysis and comparison. These data will be coordinated with data collected.

Burks noted that the preliminary annual administrative budget for operating the Colorado Monitoring Framework in 2013 will be \$40,000, but can be amended when unforeseen requirements or costs arise. At this time the other members of the framework will be the wastewater plants that are members of South Platte Coalition for Urban River Evaluation (SPCURE). SPCURE already collects monitoring data for wastewater facilities in the South Platte River basin.

Both SPCURE and AFCURE will report the sampling data collected by their respective individual wastewater treatment plant members to the industry's Colorado Data Sharing Network in standard EPA format. The network staff will then convert the statewide nutrient data to the Water Quality Control Division's own separate data format for the state's internal water quality analyses that will be required by its own Control Regulation 85.

Industry sampling and analysis plan being finalized

Jim Kendrick of the Monument Sanitation District, the JUC's representative to the various state water quality stakeholder meetings, noted that the state had formally accepted the Colorado Monitoring Framework's recommendation for a statewide list of which EPA-approved laboratory

tests can be used for measuring nitrates, nitrites, ammonia, and total inorganic nitrogen to calculate total nitrogen and total phosphorus readings.

The approved list meets the EPA standards for minimum detection limits and practical quantitation limits. This standardization is necessary to prevent labs from adding numbers with disparate accuracies and reliabilities that would yield questionable reported totals for total nitrogen concentrations.

Burks noted that he had completed the district's annual sampling and analysis plan and submitted a certification of completion to the state Water Quality Control Division.

Temperature issues raised by the division

Following a prompt from the standards unit of the division, Colorado Springs Utilities discovered that on a few occasions over the past several years the temperature of Monument Creek just below the confluence of West Monument Creek has been higher than EPA standards. These few data points could cause Monument Creek to be put on the state's 303(d) impaired streams list and require the participation of Tri-Lakes WWTF, Upper Monument Creek Regional WWTF, and Academy Water and Sanitation District in a total maximum daily loading study.

The confluence is at the south end of the Air Force Academy just below a large, dark stormwater detention pond between the railroad tracks and the Santa Fe Trail. The pond could be the source of hot water in the summer during a large stormwater event.

Burks stated that the Tri-Lakes facility had already continuously reported its treated effluent temperatures to the state for four years and the state recently dropped the temperature reporting requirement on the new Tri-Lakes discharge permit. The previously reported data had shown there was no reasonable potential for thermal degradation by the facility of Monument Creek, a shallow, low-flow, high plains, alpine desert, warm water stream. Often, particularly during droughts, the only flow in Monument Creek below the Monument Lake dam is the effluent from the Tri-Lakes plant, which is always much cooler than the state's and EPA's maximum temperature limit for this stream segment due to constant aeration.

Burks added that he and his staff will continue to continuously record and report ambient air temperatures for the plant. The average groundwater temperature is about 12 C, or 55 degrees F.

Kendrick added that the state Discharger Specific Variance stakeholder work group has determined that it is preferable for discharge permit holders to ask the Water Quality Control Commission for a five-year temporary modification to a discharge permit when there is



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