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# WEF HIGHLIGHTS

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News for Members of the Water Environment Federation

## WEF Awards Individuals, Member Associations for Achievements

### The 2006 WEF Awards

Each year, the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.)

presents a variety of awards that recognize excellence and achievement in the water environment profession. Awards are presented for service in education, innovative facility design, published papers, research, Member Association (MA) service, and more.



*Mayor Shirley Franklin (D-Atlanta), a recipient of the WEF Public Officials Award.*

This year, the annual awards were presented

during the Opening General Session at WEFTEC.06® in Dallas. Following is a summary of award recipients.

### WEF Public Officials Award

*Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.)*

*Sen. James Jeffords (D-Vt.)*

*Mayor Shirley Franklin (D-Atlanta)*

The WEF Public Officials Award is given in recognition of leadership and outstanding contributions toward improving the water environment.

Since his days as City Commissioner

for Public Works in Portland (Ore.), Congressman Earl Blumenauer has been dedicated to putting clean water at the forefront of the public policy agenda. He led efforts to improve the city's wastewater collection and treatment system performance, and to eliminate combined sewer overflows. Through his service to the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. Blumenauer has advocated for an increase in funding for wastewater infrastructure, and to reform the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to ensure that local communities are served through the Corps' water projects.

Rep. Blumenauer was also responsible for the writing and enactment of the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, which seeks to improve water and sanitation conditions in developing countries. The act marked the first time, a policy of U.S. foreign aid



*Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a recipient of the WEF Public Officials Award.*



*Sen. James Jeffords (D-Vt.), a recipient of the WEF Public Officials Award.*

was established to make safe and clean water for the poor of the world a top priority for the U.S. government.

Sen. Jeffords has been an advocate for improved water quality throughout his career. As past attorney general

for the Vermont, Jeffords played a key role in preventing untreated pulp mill waste from being deposited into Lake Champlain. In addition to being a ranking member of the Senate's Environment and Public Works Committee, Jeffords has worked on such issues as the Clean Water Act, industrial pollution, and acid rain. He has been in Congress for 30 years.

Sen. Jeffords was instrumental in writing the Vermont Act 250 law — a statewide environmental review process. He also introduced legislation for the U.S. Geological Survey's groundwater surveys for Vermont, and has been a

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# Beyond the River – Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities

In August, 2000 professionals from more than 140 countries and a range of disciplines convened in Stockholm, Sweden for the 16th annual World Water Week. Hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), World Water Week allows scientists, policymakers, United Nations representatives, and other interested parties to discuss a myriad of issues related to water. This year's meeting, "Beyond the River — Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities," had three goals:

- Determine how to share the responsibilities and financial burdens of trans-boundary water supplies;
- Find ways to limit natural resources consumption and improve waste-disposal methods; and
- Brainstorm methods to cope with extreme environmental disasters such as tsunamis and hurricanes.

## Unite for Water

During the Opening Session, speakers emphasized the pressing need for international cooperation to address water issues. "We need water solidarity in the world today," said Carin Jamtin, the Swedish Minister for International Development. Jamtin advised her colleagues to view the world's diminishing fresh water supply as an emergency requiring international cooperation.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange (The Netherlands) underscored the importance of foresight in attempting to solve problems like the one presented by Jamtin. The Prince proposed that success would come from "vision and genuine leadership."

## Tomorrow's Leaders Innovate Today

The Prince's words resonated most with the 52 youngest attendees at the plenary session — the participants in the international Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) competition, celebrating its 12th anniversary this year. In collaboration with ITT Corporation (White Plains, N.Y.), which has sponsored the international competition for the past 10 years,

the SJWP encourages students to explore water and environmental issues affecting their communities and to come up with ideas and solutions to the problems.

The national SJWP finalists from 25 countries received an all-expense-paid trip to attend World Water Week and compete for the international prize of \$5,000 and a blue crystal sculpture in the shape of a water drop.

Each country's team was comprised of one to four members between 15 and 20 years of age who were attending, or had recently completed, secondary school. For the competition, members of each country presented explanatory posters of their projects and conducted interviews with three sets of juries. Project topics included:

- Proposals to improve water quality in large bodies of water;
- Solutions to reduce industrial and toxic wastewater;
- Methods to increase potable drinking water;
- Various modes of water conservation; and
- Studies on the effects of water conditions on different species of animals and algae and the effect of water on terrain.

Teams from France, Poland, and Sweden paired scientific research with social action using their science projects as catalysts for change within their communities. For example, after discovering that Swedish bottled water contained much more bacteria than Swedish tap water, Joachim Westerlund convinced his secondary school to remove bottled water jugs and build water fountains.

## Competition Bred Camaraderie

While the judging process proved arduous for most competitors, a spirit of camaraderie prevailed. "I think everyone's nice, and I don't feel any type of competition. There's a harmony here," said Nagina Warraich of Denmark during the first day of judging.

In fact, competitors were supportive of each other right through the

announcement of the winners on the third day. At the SJWP awards ceremony Wang Hao, Weng Jie, and Xiao Yi of the Nanyang Model High School in Shanghai received the first-place award from Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. According to the Nominating Committee, "The Chinese team ... displayed originality, ingenuity, and tenacity in its use of low-cost, ecologically friendly technology to

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## WEF HIGHLIGHTS

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# Albany WWTP Receives National Biosolids Partnership's EMS Certification

The City of Albany (Ore.) Wastewater Treatment Plant received the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) environmental management system (EMS) certification on May 15, 2006.

The City of Albany is the 12th wastewater agency in the country among 90 active participants to receive this prestigious distinction from NBP. The agency's EMS program was independently validated by a third-party audit, which verified that the City of Albany Wastewater Treatment Facility has an effective biosolids environmental management system that supports continually improving environmental performance; exceeds regulatory compliance obligations; utilizes good biosolids management practices; and creates meaningful opportunities for public participation.

In an effort to recognize the The City of Albany's Wastewater Treatment Plant personnel involved in biosolids management, and the exceptional features of their Biosolids Management System, a summary of the positive items observed during the audit are listed below.

- The City of Albany has an extremely well organized EMS Manual, which is the key to having a successful environmental management system.
- The pretreatment program has evolved to become an excellent example of management of this critical control point, which uses direct oversight of sampling and industrial operations to minimize non-compliance of industrial dischargers.
- The critical control point signs posted throughout the wastewater treatment plant provide visibility and support to the EMS.
- The City has developed a strong pro-active and aggressive public participation program despite the limited interest of the general public in biosolids.



*Left to right: WEF President J. Michael Read; Albany WWTP Supervisor Ben Phelps, Environmental Services Supervisor Herb Hoffer; Operations Manager Mike Wolski; Water Quality Control Supervisor Chris Bailey; and Pete Machno of NBP. Not shown: Charles Logue of NACWA.*

- The City is commended for taking the initiative to develop the first-in-state biosolids newsletter and its new pretreatment newsletter.
- The planned farmers report showing each farmer who uses biosolids how much money is saved through land application is also a first.
- The wastewater treatment personnel developed an innovative method of EMS awareness through placing a shortened version of the EMS policy statement on the City's letter-head footer.
- The recently instituted use of spill drills is an excellent method of staying prepared for emergency situations which involve biosolids.
- City of Albany personnel actively participate in outside organizations such as the Northwest Biosolids Management Association's Continuous Improvement Systems Committee and the Statewide Association of Clean Water Agencies' Biosolids Committee and Pretreatment Committee.
- EMS and wastewater treatment

plant personnel have an excellent working relationship with State regulators, ensuring good communications with this sector of interested persons

An EMS celebration was held at their facility on Aug. 10 and included representatives from NBP, the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.), and National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA; Washington, D.C.). WEF President Michael Read was present to provide congratulatory remarks.

The Albany plant has seen benefits internally and externally communications, proactive approach to standard operating procedures, formalized tracking of goals and objectives, and increased credibility with the public. Lessons learned from developing and implementing the NBP EMS program, keys to success, costs, and stumbling blocks audit process are also discussed.

To learn more about the NBP EMS program and Albany's success story article, go to [www.biosolids.org](http://www.biosolids.org).

## WEF Awards *continued from page 1*

strong proponent for securing U.S. Department of Agriculture funds for water quality and infrastructure improvements.

Mayor Shirley Franklin promised the residents of Atlanta that within years, the city would have the cleanest urban streams and rivers — from which she has not shied away.

Soon after her 2002 inauguration, Mayor Franklin convened a panel of national water and wastewater experts and charged it with finding solutions to Atlanta's failing water and wastewater infrastructure. With the city facing two consent decrees for the pollution of a local river, Franklin saw to it that the \$3.9 billion Clean Water Atlanta program was carried through. She did it by educating the public on the water issues at hand, and received their support in return through a 5-year series of rate increases. She then championed a Municipal Option Sales Tax, with proceeds directed to Clean Water Atlanta, which was on the city's July 2004 ballot. It passed with 75% support, allowing the city to reduce the 2005 rate increase from 43% to 1%.

Currently, Clean Water Atlanta is on schedule and on budget, 3.5 years into the program.

### Charles Alvin Emerson Medal

*James J. Courchaine, New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA)*

The Charles Alvin Emerson Award is given to a WEF member who has demonstrates outstanding service to the water environment profession.

James J. Courchaine has dedicated his career to helping preserve the future integrity of the water quality industry by encouraging the recruitment and retention of talented individuals, promoting professionalism through strong training



*James J. Courchaine,  
Charles Alvin  
Emerson Medal*

and certification programs, and by communicating the principles behind effective practices for the management, operations, and maintenance of wastewater collection systems.

He served 12 years as Chair of Collections Systems Certification for NEWEA, during which time he developed two versions of certification exams and shared the model with other member associations for developing their own certification programs. Courchaine's commitment to certification is further demonstrated in his authorship of two books to assist operators and students in preparing for certification exams, and helping people advance their careers and realize their potential in the water quality industry. Within NEWEA he has worked in many other ways to promote the betterment of our profession and industry performance from establishing awards to his professional leadership as NEWEA President.

Nationally, he served on the WEF Collection Systems Committee in a number of capacities, including Symposia and Program committees, Education and Certification Committee, and as Chair of the first Collection Systems Specialty Conference. He also served on the oversight committee for the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF; Alexandria, Va.) project on effective practices for collection systems operations and maintenance.

### Gordon Maskew Fair Medal

*Dr. Zohreh Y. Movahed, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore), Chesapeake WEA*

This award is given in recognition of outstanding service in engineering education.

Dr. Zohreh Y. Movahed of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and member of the Chesapeake Water Environment Association, is currently an instructor for graduate level online courses at the John Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering.

Movahed's contributions to the education of young engineers go beyond the classroom. She was instrumental in developing and expanding the Mentoring Program for Women in Engineering at



*Dr. Zohreh Y.  
Movahed, Gordon  
Maskew Fair Medal*

the University of Maryland (College Park) where she once taught, and has developed several innovative approaches to teaching engineering coursework. Her pioneering work in online engineering education is exemplary. In addition, she has developed exceptional programs in mentoring and teaching at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. She has been honored on several occasions for her exceptional work in mentoring women and students in middle school, high school, and college.

### George Bradley Gascoigne Medal

*Craig Habben, Mont.  
Susan Stanley, Mont.  
Bob Bower, Wash.*

The George Bradley Gascoigne Medal is awarded in recognition of research in wastewater treatment plant operational improvement.

### Collection Systems Award

*David A. Hofer, Chesapeake WEA*

This award goes to a person who has made significant contributions toward the advancement of the state of the art of wastewater collection.

David A. Hofer has 30 years of experience in the planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, and operation of major wastewater collection systems for New Castle County in Delaware. Throughout his career he has served in various capacities in design, planning, and operation and maintenance divisions of the County where he developed and promoted innovative and preventative maintenance programs and

infiltration and inflow removal programs. These programs have resulted in major improvements to the County's customer level of customer service.

Hofer has been an active member of WEF's Program and Collection Systems committees. He was a co-author for the 1998 revision to WEF's publication *Confined Space Entry*, and was featured in a 1997 article on self-sealing man-hole covers in *Operations Forum*. Hofer



David A. Hofer, *Collection Systems Award*.

continues to be active at WEF's annual conference, WEFTEC, by developing and moderating a technical session on basic collection system issues for attendees that are early in their careers.

### WEF Public Education Award

Bradley Moore, *New England WEA Children's Water Festival, Minneapolis-St. Paul Area*

The WEF Public Education Award is given in recognition of significant accomplishments in promoting awareness and understanding of water environment issues among the general public.

Bradley Moore has been instrumental in the public education campaign for NEWEA for more than 10 years through personal and committee activities. He has made a clear, long-term commitment to public education.

The Children's Water Festival provides hands-on water education for fifth-grade students in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. A long-running event, the festival educates attendees about the water cycle, ground and surface water, ecology, wetlands, and other related natural resources.

### Harry E. Schlenz Public Education Medal

Joel Thurtell and Patricia Beck, *Detroit Free Press*

This award is given in recognition of accomplishments of the media,

journalists, and others who promote public understanding of the needs of the water environment.

Joel Thurtell was the writer and Patricia Beck was the photographer for a Detroit Free Press article "Progress and Problems of the River." The story, which ran as a two-part series, entailed the journalists canoeing the lower 27 mi of the River Rouge for close observation. The story documented the progress that has been made on the river, but also discussed the need for more support from a number of entities, including the public, to fully address the pollution and other man-made impacts on the Rouge River. The article was noted for being easy to read, informative, and accurate. The photographs were also noted as doing an excellent job of visually characterizing the river's natural beauty and man's impact on it.

### Thomas R. Camp Medal

Perry Schafer, *California WEA*

The Thomas R. Camp Medal is awarded in recognition of one's unique application of basic research or fundamental principles through the design or development of a wastewater collection or treatment system

Perry Schafer has been a dedicated practitioner in the environmental engineering field for more than 30 years, specializing in biosolids handling processing, disposal, and odor control. His recent work has concentrated on Class A biosolids production with an emphasis on temperature phased anaerobic



Patricia Beck and Joel Thurtell, recipients of the Harry E. Schlenz Public Education Medal.

digestion. Schafer has taken the basic theoretical knowledge, advanced it, and applied it successfully to many full-scale facilities. In these applications he has managed to produce practical designs by providing flexibility in the solids processing train to allow various Class A and B options, without significant cost increases. As well as exemplifying this hands on practical approach, Schafer has produced and published research on these topics as well as presented his findings at numerous local and national meetings

### Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal

Howard Weinberg, *N.C.*

Steven Cook, *Mo.*

Phil Singer, *N.C.*

The recipients of this award are being recognized for their research, published in a water environment research periodical, making a vital contribution to the existing knowledge of the fundamental principles or processes of water treatment

### Philip F. Morgan Medal

Gerry Stevens, *British Columbia Water and Waste Association*

This award is given in recognition of valuable contributions to the in-facility study and solution of an operational problem.

Gerry Stevens is currently Operations Specialist for Earth Tech Inc. (Long Beach, Calif.) in British Columbia, Canada. In this role he has overall responsibility for water and wastewater contract operations throughout Canada, where he is a recognized expert in biological nutrient removal.

Stevens developed a concept to improve the treatment capacity and efficiency of nutrient removal facilities during wet weather events. The concept has been successfully demonstrated at two Canadian facilities.

### Innovative Technology Awards

*Solids Handling/Disposal, JWC Environmental (Costa Mesa, Calif.); Collection Systems, IntelliServe by ADS Environmental Services (Huntsville, Ala.)*

The Innovative Technology Awards are given in recognition of innovative products or services related to water treatment.

### **WEF Outstanding Young Water Environment Professional**

*Robert F. Wimmer, Chesapeake WEA*

This award recognizes young water environment professionals for significant contributions to WEF and to the water environment profession.

Robert F. Wimmer continually contributes to Chesapeake Water Environment Association and to WEF, bringing energy, dedication, intelligence, and creativity to the governance and administration of the member association as Treasurer and a member of the Board. He serves the Young Professionals Committee by addressing the urgent need to recruit and involve younger members in Chesapeake WEA



*Robert F. Wimmer, WEF Outstanding Young Water Environment Professional Award.*

and WEF. He also is a member of the CWEA Student Activities Committee and serves as the contact member of the Johns Hopkins Student Chapter of the Chesapeake WEA. He also is the co-chair of the Chesapeake WEA Publications Committee and

co-editor of the *Ecoletter* newsletter. Wimmer is a member of the WEF Student & Young Professionals Committee, Awards Committee, YP Newsletter Committee, and Ad Hoc Young Professionals Subcommittee of the Membership Committee.

### **Undergraduate Paper Competition**

*Eric L. Tosso, Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.)*

### **WEF Member Association Achievement**

*New England WEA*

Achievement Award recognizes a

WEF MA for outstanding achievement in one of the following areas: membership retention, financial strength, new membership, scholarship programs, student achievement and support, technology transfer, and awards programs.

The New England Water Environment Association marked its 75th anniversary in 2004. To oversee this occasion, an anniversary committee was formed. Charged with developing methods to commemorate the occasion, the committee met many times, debated many ideas, and completed many extraordinary achievements, including the NEWEA 75th Anniversary Book. The committee's vision of what the book should represent is expressed by the theme "Origin/Destination."

Other achievements included raising funds to support the activities of the Anniversary Committee. Due to the hard work of the Sponsor Committee and the generosity of sponsors, more than \$50,000 was raised.

The committee's energy stirred excitement and activity throughout the association. Through the efforts of several active members of the association and the volunteer services of local artist/photographer, Sharon Shea, a 75th Anniversary Commemorative Poster, "Manhole Covers of New England" was produced.

The committee also established a special 75th Anniversary Scholarship Fund. Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to worthy candidates from each of the New England states.

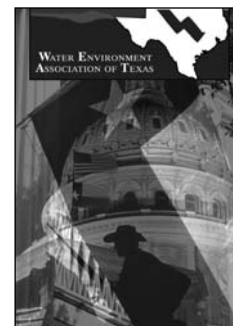
### **WEF Outstanding Member Association**

*WEA of Texas*

This award is presented to a WEF Member Association with achievements in multiple areas, including membership retention, financial strength, student achievement and support, scholarship program, and awards program and participation.

The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) has established itself as a leader within the water environment industry. WEAT's primary and

comprehensive interest in and support of public education initiatives testify to the association's commitment to enlightening its membership and populace in general about the significance of improving the water environment and protecting water resources for now and for future generations. WEAT seminars and conferences consistently host multitudes of interested participants and result in substantial revenues to support additional education programs. WEAT's cooperative efforts with counterpart organizations, such as La Sociedad Mexicana de Aguas, A.C., Texas Section American Water Works Association, Texas Water Utilities Association and others, have fostered a unified approach to protecting the region's water resources. The phenomenal growth of Texas Water, WEAT's annual technical conference and exposition, confirms its place as a true powerhouse within our water environment industry.



### **Canham Graduate Studies Scholarship**

*1st place: Andrew Gronewold, Duke University (Durham, N.C.)*

Andrew Gronewold is enrolled in the Nicholas School of the Environment Doctor of Philosophy program at Duke University majoring in environmental science and policy. In addition, he is also pursuing a Master of Science in statistics from Duke's Institute of Statistics and Decision Studies. Gronewold earned his bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Cornell University (Ithaca, N.Y.) in 1995. He is a registered professional engineer and a certified soil evaluator in Massachusetts. Professor Kenneth Reckhow, chair of environmental sciences and policy at Duke University, describes Andrew as "an excellent student capable of making key contributions to water quality

assessment for decision making. Drew's engineering background ... plus his years of professional engineering experience, make him one of the best prepared incoming graduate students I've had in 28 years of teaching."

*2nd place: Jeremy Kraemer, University of Toronto (Ontario)*

Jeremy Kraemer is a talented young engineer currently pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in civil engineering (environmental engineering collaborative option), at the University of

Toronto. He earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in engineering science from the University Toronto in 2001 with honors, and continued earn a Master of Applied Science in civil engineering (environmental option) in 2004. During his undergraduate studies he won several academic awards including the General Motors Environmental Engineering Award and the Peter Sand's Award in Engineering Science. Demonstrating a strong commitment to the profession, in 2005 Kraemer severed

as the Founding President of the student chapter of the Water Environment Federation at the University of Toronto, the first student chapter in Canada.

Kraemer's interests in his graduate studies focus on sustainability in the wastewater industry. Both his masters and Ph.D. research programs have focused on recovering the potential energy of wastewater through the application of anaerobic processes to capture the energy available in wastewater organics.

### **Beyond the River** *continued from page 2*

restore a polluted urban river channel."

The team from Sri Lanka was awarded a Diploma of Excellence and \$500 for their method of conserving water in rice paddies. "Their research showed that by applying paddy straw mulch, water consumption in rice cultivation is reduced, while at the same time much-

needed organic matter is added to the soil. Further, this beneficial practice is relevant not only for Sri Lanka, but for all rice-producing countries," the Nominating Committee noted.

The team members from the Senior High School in Japan were awarded a Diploma of Excellence and \$500 for

their adaptation of the Wardian Case (a method used in the 19th century to grow plants in enclosed spaces) to create portable nurseries, which grow healthy rice seedlings with significantly less water than is used in current practices. Their discovery will enable handicapped people to sell such plants for a



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## Beyond the River *continued from page 2*

livelihood, as the process requires little human attention.

“The jury was thinking about the future of our project. While our project is currently helping disabled people in Japan, our principal could be used to help people in developing countries produce more food in the future,” Sae Nishino said of Japan.

All three winning teams have plans to continue applying their discoveries to projects. Members of the teams will teach the younger students at their secondary schools about the work they have done for the SJWP so that, when they leave for university, the next generation will carry on their important work.

### International Ingenuity Leads to Real World Water Solutions

The SJWP not only challenged students to come up with solutions to a

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*The competition is a good chance for communication.*

*If we only stay in our nation, it's closed. This way, we have more exposure to the world.”*

— Weng Jie, China

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range of water problems, but also gave them the opportunity to have an exchange of ideas that transcended national boundaries and cultures. In doing so, the SJWP students offered an example to World Water Week

attendees of how world water dilemmas could be solved through international and cross-cultural exchange and cooperation.

“This [competition] encourages students to set high goals and to have more motivation to contribute to our nation and to our world,” Wang Hao said.

Weng Jie added, “[The competition] is a good chance for communication. If we only stay in our nation, it’s closed. This way, we have more exposure to the world.”

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*Eighteen-year-old Alyse Ritvo covered World Water Week for WEF. She is the recipient of the ITT Award for Excellence in Student Water Journalism, and was chosen to provide coverage of World Water Week in Stockholm. She is currently a freshman at Harvard University (Cambridge, Mass.).*



The advertisement features a dark background with a close-up of water droplets. On the left, the Water Environment Federation logo is visible, with the text "Water Environment Federation" and "Preserving & Enhancing the Global Water Environment". The main title "Water Environment Research ONLINE" is prominently displayed in large, white, bold letters. To the right, there is a small inset image of the "Water Environment Research" journal cover, showing a landscape with water and rocks. Below the title, the text "Discover all of the advantages of WER Online" is written in a bold, italicized font. The main body of text describes the journal's focus on water quality and pollution control, listing various topics of interest. A list of features is provided on the right side, including reference linking, full-text searching, saved searches, and alerts. The website address "www.weronline.org" is highlighted in a bold, italicized font, followed by a call to action to register today.

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