



4220 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
P: (703) 379-2480
F: (703) 379-7563
www.agiweb.org
@AGI_Updates

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Contact: Abigail Seadler
aseadler@agiweb.org

AGI Supports National Groundwater Awareness Week

Alexandria, VA – The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) is proud to support National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 11-17, 2012.

Groundwater is a crucial source of fresh water for society, both in terms of potable water, and agricultural and industrial needs. The United States alone uses 79.6 billion gallons of groundwater per day for public and private drinking water, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes. While freshwater accounts for less than 3% of all water on Earth, groundwater makes up roughly 90% of that 3%. This globally crucial but scarce resource needs careful stewardship.

National Groundwater Awareness Week—sponsored by AGI member society the National Ground Water Association (NGWA)—promotes the responsible stewardship of groundwater through education and outreach initiatives that help make society aware of this life-sustaining resource. The week reinforces concepts of preservation and the importance of properly protecting groundwater from man-made contaminants such as hazardous household substances and wastes.

AGI Executive Director, Dr. P. Patrick Leahy notes, “Like every other natural resource, groundwater is important for both society and the environment. AGI strongly supports all initiatives by our member societies to further educate the public about the Earth and its many systems.”

For more information, and to get involved, please visit
<http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/awareness/Pages/default.aspx>.

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The American Geosciences Institute is a nonprofit federation of 50 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 250,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society’s use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.