

# THE SOURCE



The Source is a quarterly publication of Beaver Water District Summer 2019

## Alan Fortenberry Retires after 28 Years of Service



Alan D. Fortenberry has retired after a distinguished 28-year career with Beaver Water District (BWD). A resident of Springdale, Fortenberry joined BWD in 1991, as Plant Engineer, and in 2001, he was named CEO. During his tenure with the District, he led the expansion of the District's facilities from 50 million gallons a day (MGD) to 140 MGD, including the completion of a nationally recognized raw water intake facility on Beaver Lake, construction of a new solids handling facility, and renovation of the original Joe M. Steele Water Treatment Plant. Fortenberry also oversaw the development and construction of the Administration and Water Education Center, which earned LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Fortenberry is a native of Leachville, Ark. He attended the University of

Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he earned a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering and M.S. in Environmental Engineering. Prior to joining BWD, he worked as a Project Engineer for McGoodwin, Williams & Yates of Fayetteville and as an Engineer Supervisor for the

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“Beaver Water District offered me the job of a lifetime and I've used quite a lot of mine just trying to do it right,” Fortenberry said. “It's been a great and rewarding experience to be a part of the growth and history of the District and of Northwest Arkansas and to work alongside some of the greatest people in the world.”

*Alan Fortenberry Retires* continued from page 1

Arkansas Soil & Water Conservation Commission (now known as the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission) in Little Rock.

Over his many years with the District, Fortenberry advocated and led efforts for the protection of Beaver Lake and the surrounding watershed. He was involved with many organizations that bolstered those watershed protection goals, including the Beaver Watershed Alliance, Ozarks Water Watch, the Northwest Arkansas Council, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Audubon, and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission. Fortenberry has been a member of the Springdale Kiwanis Club for 35 years. He served on the national Water Utility Council of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and was a governor-appointed member of the Arkansas Board of Health.

Fortenberry's professional accolades include receiving the 2010 AWWA Southwest Section Glen T. Kellogg Leadership Award, the George Warren

Fuller Award in 2007, and he was inducted into the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association's Glen T. Kellogg Water & Wastewater Hall of Fame in 2013. He was one of the inaugural recipients of the John Lewis Leadership Award by Elevate Performance.

He is a member of both the Academy of Biological/Agricultural Engineering and the Academy of Civil Engineering, and he serves on the Advisory Council for the Dean of the College of Engineering. In 2007, he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the College of Engineering. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and holds both Grade IV Water Treatment and Distribution Licenses.

Fortenberry and his wife, Trish, have been married for 49 years and have three children and six grandchildren. They are members of the Johnson Church of Christ, where Fortenberry serves as an Elder.

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*This photo, taken during the April 2 retirement reception at BWD, shows Fortenberry surrounded by family holding a commemorative medallion for years of service presented by Jeff Thacker of U.S. Rep. Steve Womack's office, as well as a lifetime membership in the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Jennifer Fortenberry (daughter-in-law); Abigail Scott (granddaughter); Trish Fortenberry (wife); Maya Scott (twin granddaughter); Amy Scott (daughter); Jackson Scott (twin grandson); and (back row, left to right) Joshua Fortenberry (son); Justin Scott (son-in-law); Caden Scott (grandson); Alan Fortenberry. Family not represented in the photo include Mark (son), Jacob (grandson), and Madison (granddaughter).*

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Fortenberry received the prestigious Glen T. Kellogg Award in 2013.



*"On behalf of the Board, we thank you for your service," said Bill Watkins, President, BWD Board of Directors. The Board presented Alan with a resolution thanking him for his 28 years of service. Fortenberry poses with wife, Trish, with the resolution. "The best part of this job ... what I've done is getting to know people, all of you. I want to thank Dick Starr. He gave me the opportunity to be out here in the first place. Trish had to put up with a lot. I look forward to spending more time with this wonderful lady," Fortenberry said.*



Trish and Alan Fortenberry pose with Travis Graves and Cary Davis, who fashioned a bench from recycled redwood from the first water plant.

## The Leaders of Beaver Water District



*In the 60-year history of Beaver Water District, staff leaders have served long tenures with distinction. Richard Starr led BWD until 2001, when Alan Fortenberry took over as CEO. Lane Crider (right) is current CEO.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO *M. Lane Crider P.E., LEED AP*

### The Legacy of Alan Fortenberry

It's hard to know where to begin when trying to put my thoughts on paper and describe the impact of Alan Fortenberry on this District and on my own personal career. I first met Alan when I began working as a summer intern at McGoodwin, Williams and Yates (MWY) in 1989. I didn't have the opportunity to spend much time around him that first summer, as much of my effort was spent in the field cutting brush and holding a prism rod on the survey crew. But when I did have time in the office, I found myself gravitating to a space shared by Alan and another engineer. As I reflect on why I was drawn to the projects they were working on, I realize that, in part, it was in anticipation of their next big argument. Much like watching a NASCAR race for the crashes, some of the "debates" held by Alan and his coworker were spectacular! As a 19-year old college kid, Alan Fortenberry was an imposing figure, both in stature and knowledge. But for his officemate, Alan was a counterpart and peer who bluntly spoke his mind and wouldn't back down if he disagreed on a subject or design alternative. The benefactor, of course, of these battles was the MWY client. After cooling off and considering the other's point of view, the best solution always seemed to rise to the surface.

In 1991, Alan joined Beaver Water District (BWD) and he met the challenges facing the District with the same tenacity as he had in arguing a point with his MWY coworker. As Alan stepped into the

role of Plant Engineer, the District was beginning a 40-MGD expansion. Over his career, the District's "brick and mortar" facilities would continue to expand to include two intake structures, three treatment plants, a solids handling facility, and a beautiful Administration and Education Center. More easily overlooked, however, are the "soft asset" improvements that Alan brought to the District, including the Environmental, Information Systems, and Public Affairs and Education Departments. With Alan's leadership BWD grew from a regional water district formed for the sole purpose of contracting for municipal and industrial water supply to a nationally recognized organization at the forefront of environmental sustainability, source-water protection, community engagement, economic development, and, of course, production of high-quality, affordable drinking water. Now enjoying new opportunities, Alan leaves quite a legacy for the District.

Seemingly, Alan's passion for engineering, for the water industry, and for Beaver Water District has never waned. I consider myself lucky to have twice had the opportunity to work with Alan and be the benefactor of his experience, wisdom, and occasional bluntness! And as I follow Alan in the role of CEO of BWD, 30 years after that first summer internship, I realize that I still find him imposing...for what will be my legacy? Only time will tell.

GO FISHING ALAN!

# Water Quality Data Informs Public

Beaver Water District must meet national, health-based standards for drinking water in order to fulfill its primary mission, which is to produce safe, potable water. That means the District must comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which was passed by Congress in 1974 and amended in 1986 and 1996. The SDWA's purpose is to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets standards for drinking water in order to protect against naturally occurring and man-made contaminants. Maximum contaminant levels for the standards are set by the EPA and are enforced by the Arkansas Department of Health in the state of Arkansas.

Beaver Water District prepares an annual report each year that includes a variety of analytical results. The analysis is conducted by the staff in the Beaver Water District Laboratory and the Arkansas Department of Health Laboratory. This report can be found on our website.

\*New Section: In addition to the Annual Water Quality Report, a new section containing data for the most commonly requested parameters titled "Finished Water Quality Update" has been posted on our website. Data in this section will be updated at least monthly to better serve our customers' needs. Both of these reports can be found on our website at the following link: <https://www.bwdh2o.org/about/regulatory-compliance/>.

## Finished Water Quality Results — June 4, 2019

<i>Alkalinity, Bicarbonate (<math>\text{HCO}_3^-</math>)</i>	0
<i>Alkalinity, Carbonate (<math>\text{CaCO}_3</math>)</i>	45 mg/L
<i>Alkalinity, Total</i>	45 mg/L
<i>Calcium (as <math>\text{CaCO}_3</math>)</i>	56 mg/L
<i>Calcium (as Ca)</i>	22.4 mg/L
<i>Chloride</i>	6.7 mg/L
<i>Chlorine, Total</i>	1.66 mg/L
<i>Conductivity</i>	178 $\mu\text{S/cm}$
<i>Hardness (as <math>\text{CaCO}_3</math>)</i>	61 mg/L
<i>Iron</i>	<0.01 mg/L
<i>Magnesium (Mg)</i>	1.2 mg/L
<i>pH</i>	8.5
<i>Sulfate</i>	23.7 mg/L
<i>Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)</i>	110 mg/L
<i>Total Organic Carbon (TOC)</i>	1.50 mg/L
<i>Turbidity</i>	0.08 NTU

## Mission

*To serve our customers' needs by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards.*

## 15 Individuals Complete Second Citizens Water Academy



*Pictured here are the 2019 graduates from Class II: (back row, left to right) Craig Rivaldo, Arvest Bank Bentonville; Dax Weindorf, Lighthouse Financial; Steve Keith, NWA Regional Airport; Daniel Ellis, Crafton Tull; Tim McFarland, Elevate Performance, LLC; Les Rau, Cargill; (middle row, left to right) Ben Brantmeier, Bancorp South; Kyle Weaver, Office of U. S. Rep. Steve Womack; Jacquelyn Hudson, Rockline Industries; Jay Schneider, Hobbs State Park; and (front row, left to right) Stephanie Neipling, UA Division of Agriculture; Joe Hiryak, Fayetteville Window Washing; Brent Farmer, Flintco, LLC; Terri Lane, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust; and Colt Bailey, City of Lowell.*

The purpose of the Citizens Water Academy is to educate a select group of NWA leaders about the history and organizational makeup of BWD, the process of producing and distributing safe and affordable drinking water from Beaver Lake to our customer cities, and the protection of the Beaver Lake watershed. The goal is to

enable the members to serve as ambassadors and to advocate on BWD's behalf. This is beneficial not only to BWD and the protection of water quality in Beaver Lake, but it also supports community sustainability and regional economic growth. For more information, email Kayla Mhoon at [kmhoon@bwdh2o.org](mailto:kmhoon@bwdh2o.org).

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## Construction Update



In 2018, the Filter-to-Waste (FTW) and Solids Processing Improvements Project got underway. The cost estimate for the project is \$4.8 million. The project is now more than halfway complete and is adding a recovery basin, piping, pumps, and other

appurtenances to capture the FTW stream and recycle it to the head of the plant. In addition to this project being a sustainable solution, removing the FTW stream from the solids processing facility will significantly extend the useful life of BWD's existing assets, delaying capital costs for the expansion of that facility. Designed by Black & Veatch with Construction Management-at-Risk services provided by Crossland Heavy Contractors, the project is currently within budget and projected to be complete ahead of schedule.

*(Source: Darryl Fendley, BWD Plant Engineer)*

Beaver Water District received special recognition from the American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water for maintaining Directors Award status for the past five years. The 5-year Directors Award for Water Treatment is presented to plants in good standing that have maintained this level of performance. In the photo are (from left) Jim Williams, AWWA President-Elect; Stacy Cheevers, Jesse Burch and Mindi Dearing, Beaver Water District Staff; and Jennifer McLain, Acting Director, U.S. EPA Office, Groundwater and Drinking Water.



Beaver Water District's Top Ops Team competed and earned fifth place in the national Top Ops competition at the annual American Water Works Association's (AWWA) meeting held in Denver. Top Ops is the "college bowl" for water operators. Teams compete to answer technical questions related to the operations of water facilities. Join us in congratulating BWD's team members, all of whom are Plant Operator IIs for BWD (from left) Steven Caudle of Lowell, Dustin Mayhew of Springdale, and Gabe Frost of Siloam Springs. Nikki Holloway of Springdale (far right), BWD Laboratory Analyst, serves as the team's coach. BWD Laboratory Supervisor, Mindi Dearing of Farmington, serves as Chair of AWWA's Top Ops Subcommittee.

Jesse Burch of Bella Vista, Operations Supervisor with Beaver Water District (BWD), received the Water Works Outstanding Achievement Award on April 30th in Hot Springs. Blake Weindorf, 2019 Conference Chair of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association, presented the Award during the Water Awards Luncheon.



*From left, Blake Weindorf presents award to Jesse Burch.*

Spring is a busy time for Dot Neely, Beaver Water District's Education Coordinator. BWD engages children throughout Northwest Arkansas in Beaver Lake Drinking Water and Watershed Education.



14th Annual  
**Secchi Day**  
**Science Fair**  
On Beaver Lake

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
August 17, 2019

Hands-on Science Activities, Kayak Test Drives, Free Food, Door prizes, All Ages.  
INFO: [bwdh2o.org](http://bwdh2o.org)

