

## 38th Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium



Another successful event is in the books. Presenters covered 40 research projects! Twenty posters and 20 oral presentations ran the gamut of important water issues in Oklahoma.

Catch up on what you missed or revisit presentations especially important to you and what you do for Oklahoma and its citizens [here](#).

## The Future of Water: Data or Instincts?

As Dr. Todd Halihan, 2018 McElhiney Lecturer and Professor of Hydrogeophysics at Oklahoma State University, states, “[m]ankind uses economics, politics, and basic instincts to make decisions about water.” As our invited speaker at the [Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium](#), he challenged us to think differently and consider alternative possibilities.

In our quest for (false) security, we are storing water inefficiently, at best. Reservoirs are our comfortably common way of holding water in reserve to reduce flooding and ensure we have water when we need it. Although reservoirs serve these functions and others (think power generation and recreation), we ignore immense waste from evaporation, costs, and potential reductions in quality and availability.

Dr. Halihan presents “a framework to improve our water resources.”

If you get a chance to catch one of his [McElhiney](#) talks in 2018, don't miss it!



Dr. Todd Halihan presented on November 1.

## Student Section

Fifteen students, representing [Oklahoma State University](#), the [University of Oklahoma](#), and the [University of Tulsa](#) presented their research at the 2017 Water Research Symposium. During an introductory flash-talk segment, students introduced the audience to their research in under two minutes. After poster visits by judges and session attendees, students had lunch in small groups with a professional. This provided time to learn about opportunities that may be available during and after their studies.



Based upon judges' scores, the following students were recipients of Outstanding Student Poster Awards:

1. **Briana Wyatt** (OSU)
2. **Blessing Masasi** (OSU)
3. **Amy Sikora** (OU)

Check out the posters on our [2017 Water Research Symposium page](#).

*Pictured left:  
Briana Wyatt and Blessing Masasi  
(Amy Sikora not available)*

## Opportunities

### Funding

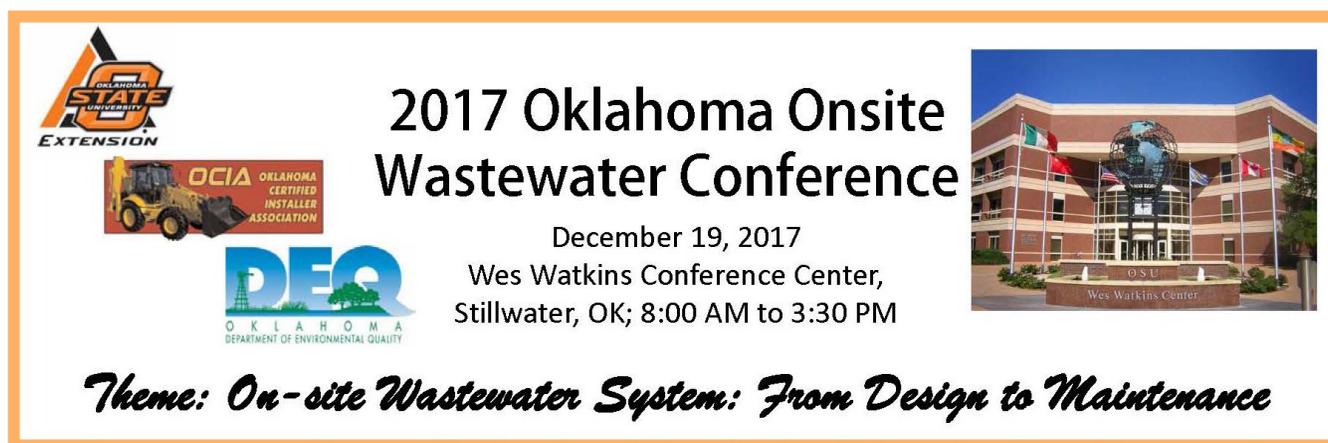
- EPA: Safe Drinking Water (due 12/4/2017)
- The Lawn Institute (due 1/12/18)
- USDA RUS: Solid Waste Management Grant Program (due 1/2/18)
- [\[more info\]](#)

### Employment

- USGS Oklahoma Water Science Center: Student Trainees
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Seasonal Temporary Employees
- [\[more info\]](#)

### Events

- Wetlands Across Borders Workshop – Playas of the Southern High Plains (Clovis, NM; 12/12-12/15)
- Oklahoma Onsite Wastewater Conference (Stillwater; 12/19)
- OK Natural Resources Conference (Tulsa; 2/21-23; abstracts due 11/15)
- Southwest Stream & Wetland Restoration Conf. (San Antonio, TX; 5/3-6/1; abstracts due 1/31)
- [\[more info\]](#)



**2017 Oklahoma Onsite Wastewater Conference**

December 19, 2017  
Wes Watkins Conference Center,  
Stillwater, OK; 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

*Theme: On-site Wastewater System: From Design to Maintenance*

The banner features logos for Oklahoma State University Extension, OCIA (Oklahoma Certified Installer Association), and DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). It also includes a photograph of the Wes Watkins Conference Center building.

## Septic System Questions Should Be on Every Rural Home Buying List

Homebuyers moving from urban to rural areas need to take into account septic system basics, otherwise one's dream house can run the risk of turning into an annoying money pit. Here are some questions they may want to ask:

1. Are there maintenance records of the home's septic system?
2. When was the last time the septic tank was pumped?
3. When was the aerator last serviced?

Find out what other questions to ask (and get some answers, too) in the [full article](#).

## OSU Expertise Available on Your Mobile Device

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service fact sheets cover everything from selecting the right lawn grass for your home to nutrition to water measurement units and common diseases of tomatoes. The information always has been there, but now it is in the palm of everyone's hand at <http://facts.okstate.edu>.

- 1,250 of our most popular fact sheets
- responsive and mobile-friendly
- search by topic, department or author

[Read the full article here.](#)



### Oklahoma Water Resources Center

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