



# Editors' Message: The 2013 Editors' Choice articles, a new editor, and the 2013 'Coolest Paper' award

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The Editors' Choice articles for the 2013 publishing year are given in Table 1. Congratulations to all of these authors!

## 2013 Editors' Choice

“Editors' Choice” articles are ones selected for special attention by the *Hydrogeology Journal* (HJ) editorial team and the guest editors of the year's theme issue. These articles may be selected for any of several good reasons including: outstanding science, innovative approach, potentially important conclusions, interesting field area or phenomenon, unusual topic, political/social/historical/philosophical interest, etc. At the conclusion of each publishing year, the editors select up to five articles from among the year's crop of about 150 published articles. The HJ editors believe that our readers would find these articles to be somehow interesting or useful. Both authors and readers of the selected articles benefit because Editors' Choice articles are: (1) highlighted on the International Association of Hydrogeologists' (IAH) website and in the IAH newsletter, and (2) Springer, HJ's publisher, makes these articles freely available on their website for full viewing and downloading at no cost to everyone for 2 years.

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## Introducing our new *Hydrogeology Journal* editor

During 2013, HJ editor Shemin Ge ended her term and Elizabeth (Liz) Sreaton began as our new editor. Shemin served as an HJ editor for 5 years (since September 2008) and began to pass her work to Liz in mid-2013. In September 2013, Liz took over fully from Shemin. We will miss Shemin's good work and her thoughtful and caring input in managing the journal, and wish her well in her next endeavors.

Liz received her MS in Earth Sciences at University of California Santa Cruz in 1988 and her PhD in Geological Sciences from Lehigh University, Pennsylvania (USA), in 1995, with research on subduction zone fluid flow for both degrees. For a few years between her MS and starting her PhD, she worked for a groundwater consulting company in the San Francisco Bay Area. After finishing her PhD and two post-doctoral research positions, Liz joined the faculty at the University of Florida in Gainesville (USA) in 1998. There she teaches both undergraduate and graduate hydrogeology courses and conducts research. Liz's research examines the relationship between groundwater flow and the surrounding sediment and rock, combining field data collection, laboratory permeability testing, and numerical modeling of groundwater flow to study her primary focus areas: exchange of surface water and groundwater in karst aquifer systems, and, sub-seafloor fluid flow. For the latter, her particular interest concerns water flow in sediments being deformed in subduction zones. Liz has spent about 14 months at sea (not all at once) on scientific ocean drilling and related expeditions, and she has conducted aquifer tests in sub-seafloor boreholes using the submersible vessel, Alvin. We welcome Liz to our journal staff.

## Announcing '2013 Coolest Paper of the Year' award

We are excited to announce the new 'Coolest Paper of the Year' award, organised by the Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network (ECHN) of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH; <http://iah.org>). The Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network was formed in 2011 with the

**Table 1** Hydrogeology Journal Editors' Choice selections for 2013

Authors	Title	Vol/No., pages DOI
Guodong Cheng and Huijun Jin	Permafrost and groundwater on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and in northeast China	21/1, 5–23 DOI <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-012-0927-2">10.1007/s10040-012-0927-2</a>
Suzanne A. Pierce, John M. Sharp, Jr., Joseph H. A. Guillaume, Robert E. Mace and David J. Eaton	Aquifer-yield continuum as a guide and typology or science-based groundwater management	21/2, 331–340 DOI <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-012-0910-y">10.1007/s10040-012-0910-y</a>
Jean-François Cornu, David Eme and Florian Malard	The distribution of groundwater habitats in Europe	21/5, 949–960 DOI <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-013-0984-1">10.1007/s10040-013-0984-1</a>
Richard M. Yager, L. Niel Plummer, Leon J. Kauffman, Daniel H. Doctor, David L. Nelms and Peter Schlosser	Comparison of age distributions estimated from environmental tracers by using binary-dilution and numerical models of fractured and folded karst: Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and West Virginia, USA	21/6, 1193–1217 DOI <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-013-0997-9">10.1007/s10040-013-0997-9</a>
Stephen Foster, Ricardo Hirata and Bartolomeo Andreo	The aquifer pollution vulnerability concept: aid or impediment in promoting groundwater protection?	21/7, 1389–1392 DOI <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-013-1019-7">10.1007/s10040-013-1019-7</a>

aim of providing support in information sharing, networking and strengthening the status of early career hydrogeologists. It provides a voice for young hydrogeologists and organizes events at international conferences. The network has an online presence through LinkedIn, as a subgroup of IAH (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Early-Career-Hydrogeologists-Network-ECHN-3717583/about>); IAH members can join the group free of charge.

This 'Coolest Paper of the Year' award will raise the profile of hydrogeology articles considered new and/or interesting by young hydrogeologists while simultaneously empowering young scientists and encouraging discussion among them. It is being run entirely online, with crowd-sourced nominations and voting.

The purpose of the award is to energize the early career hydrogeology community and to encourage discussion of new and exciting hydrogeology articles. The definition of 'cool' has been deliberately left open to interpretation to encourage a wide range of nominations. It could be that an article is nominated because of its originality and creativity, because of its detail and rigor, because it is a comprehensive and useful review, or because of its outstanding presentation – or for any other reason that can be convincingly justified.

The process is designed to be open and democratic, with a 'bottom up' approach. Anyone with a hydrogeology or related degree completed in the last 10 years can participate in the nominations and/or in voting, through the online forms. Nominators and voters do not need to be IAH (or ECHN) members. The only restriction is that each person can only nominate once and only vote once. This structure ensures transparency and will result in a genuine 'people's choice award'. Self-nominations are allowed but not encouraged.

The award selection process consists of two stages:

**NOMINATIONS:** First, any early career hydrogeologist can nominate any hydrogeology article published (online or in volume) during 2013 in *any peer-reviewed journal* (not only *Hydrogeology Journal*),

with a maximum 50-word justification of their nomination.

Before March 31, 2014, **nominate an article** at <http://form.jotforme.com/form/33531874976366>.

**VOTING:** Second, there will be an open, online poll in which any early career hydrogeologist can vote for the published article that they consider 'the coolest' of the nominations.

**Voting begins on April 1, 2014**, following receipt of the nominations, which will appear on the voting page. Before May 31, 2014, vote at <http://form.jotform.com/form/33493046009856>.

The winner will be the nominated article receiving the most votes at the close of voting on May 31, 2014. The winning article will be announced at the 2014 IAH congress in Marrakech, Morocco, in September 2014, and the primary author of the article (or a representative) will be presented at the congress with the prize of a 1-year IAH membership plus a book title of the winner's choice from the IAH series. To encourage participation, additional prizes will be awarded to one participant in each of the two stages of the selection process (i.e. one nominator, and one voter) through a random prize draw. These lucky winners will receive their choice of a book from the IAH book series.

For more information, and to join IAH/ECHN, follow the links on the IAH website, on the IAH LinkedIn page and on the IAH Facebook page. We look forward to your participation!

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