



Come join us
August 9-12, 2026



Resort and Conference Center, Wheeling, WV

Online registrations and payments are available at wvrwa.org

WELCOME

The staff and board of West Virginia Rural Water Association are excited to welcome everyone to Oglebay Resort for Water on the Mountain 2026.

As always, we will be offering a variety of classes with topics for water, wastewater, source water, office personnel, and board members. Make sure to plan your schedule accordingly to ensure you receive the maximum number of continuing education hours (CEHs) to use towards your certification renewal.

Between classes, we hope you take the opportunity to network with your peers and our vendors. There are plenty of experiences to be had at Oglebay. From shopping to walking and hiking trails to an aerial challenge course and everything in between, there are plenty of activities for all ages and interests.

Grab your registration packet on Sunday in preparation for the week's activities. Stay and partake in the picnic activities—enjoy good food and beverages while watching and/or participating in our competitions.

Vendors will be exhibiting in the Glessner Auditorium on Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Make sure to come out and show your support to all of our vendors. Monday evening will include the Exhibitors' Reception, a cash bar, and complimentary Hors D'oeuvres. Please make sure to thank all of our vendor partners who help make this conference possible.

Oglebay Lodging Information

1-877-436-1797

WVRWA has a block of rooms* located at Oglebay Resort in:

- Wilson Lodge
- Oglebay Cottages

Reservations may be made online by using the code 51435

**The room block is in effect until July 9, 2025.*



Oglebay's Cancellation Policy:

- A one-night deposit, including tax, per room is required with each reservation. **Advance deposits with credit cards are charged to your account the day the reservation is taken. Lodge room cancellations made less than 72 hours prior to the arrival date are not eligible for refunds. Late arrivals, no-shows, or early departures will be charged for the full amount of the original reservation. Cottage and Estate House cancellations made less than 30 days in advance of the arrival date results in forfeiture of the entire deposit. Cancellations made more than 30 days in advance will receive a full refund.
- **Advance purchase reservations require payment in full at the time reservation is made. Advance purchase rates are non-refundable. Cancellation and changes to reservation will forfeit the total room payment plus taxes. Advance purchase rates will be identified at the time of booking. Offer is not applicable to groups of 8 or more. Blackout dates and restrictions may apply. Advance purchase rates cannot be combined with any other offer, sale, promotion, package or prior reservation.

AGENDA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

- 9:00 a.m.** **Worship Service**
- 10:45 a.m.** **Golf Tournament**
Please arrive by 10:30 a.m. to ensure a timely start
- 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** **Picnic**
- 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** **Picnic Entertainment (Country Music Artist Nathan Bartgis)**



Nathan Bartgis is a rising star in the country music scene, bringing authentic country songs with a southern rock energy. Raised in Hedgesville, WV, Nathan Bartgis has been honing his craft of captivating audiences with his soulful voice and stage presence.

In 2019, Nathan Bartgis released his debut EP album, “That Kinda Man,” which showcased his unique blend of traditional country music with a modern twist. The album received critical acclaim and solidified its place in the industry with singles, “Cold and Lonesome” and Coming Home reaching #1 on Cashbox music charts.

- 3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** **Early Registration (Pickup Packets only at the Picnic)**
- 4:30 p.m.** **Water Tapping Competition**
- 5:30 p.m.** **Meter Toss Competition**
- 6:00 p.m.** **Cornhole Competition**
- 6:30 p.m.** **Hillbilly Horseshoes**
- 7:30 p.m.** **Bingo**
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.** **Exhibitor’s Early Set-Up**

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** **Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**
- 1. Opening Session (W/WW)**

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

- 2. Don’t Abandon Your Lagoons: How to Achieve Mechanical-Level Effluent Without Mechanical Costs (WW)**
Small and rural utilities across the country are being pushed toward costly mechanical treatment upgrades, often exceeding \$30 million, despite limited budgets and staffing constraints. This presentation outlines a practical, phased approach to transforming existing lagoon systems into high-performing treatment solutions capable of meeting increasingly stringent effluent limits.
- 3. Funding Sources Roundtable (W/WW)**
Explore funding sources that are available to water and wastewater systems.
- 4. Utilizing Hydrants to Monitor Pressure in Your System (W)**
Learn how to continuously monitor pressure and temperature to reduce non-revenue water, assist in leak detection and improve water quality through existing fire hydrants
- 5. Trenching & Shoring 101 (W/WW)**
This class will provide participants with the basics when entering any open trench and teach you how to do so safely.



AGENDA

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Lunch— (On Your Own)**

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Delegates' Luncheon/Business Meeting**

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

6. USDA Rural Development WEP Program Updates (W/WW)

This class will cover The USDA Water and Environmental Programs and changes that have been made.

7. Sampling for Lead at School and Child Care Facilities in West Virginia (W/WW)

This presentation will summarize the WVBPH program, describe LCRI school and childcare sampling requirements, and discuss how water systems can take advantage of existing school sampling programs to prepare for future LCRI requirements. Overview of recent changes to the PSC's water and sewer rules.

8. Successful Utility Planning for Economic Development & Growth (W/WW)

9. Metering 101/201 (W)

A complete discussion/education on AMI meter technology, past, present and future. The benefits and costing of the system before and after the bidding process.

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

10. Horizontal Directional Drilling: The Basics (W)

Get a basic understanding of applications and the process involved with horizontal directional drilling.

11. WV Public Service Commission Roundtable (W/WW)

Discussion of the latest trends in rate cases at the PSC and how the trends are impacting PSDs and municipalities. Discussion of distressed and failing utility proceedings and how the PSC is managing such proceedings. Moreover, the discussion will include a review of recent legislation and how certain changes to the W. Va. Code are impacting PSDs and municipalities. Overview of recent changes to the PSC's water and sewer rules.

12. Control Valve Electronics (W)

13. Managing Risks in Rural Water Systems (W/WW)

Rural water systems face unique challenges that can drive up the total cost of risk if not properly managed. This session breaks down practical strategies for controlling losses and strengthening resilience across five major exposure areas: auto, property, general liability, cyber, and employment practices.

4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Exhibit Hall Opening, Water Taste Test Judging & Vendor Reception
(Cash bar, Hors D'oeuvres)**



AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.** **Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** **Exhibit Hall**
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** **Lunch— (On Your Own)**
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Concurrent Training Sessions

14. Making Waves—Women in Rural Water 2026 (W/WW)

The 4th annual Women in Rural Water event will offer an opportunity for women across the state to network and share experiences. Our special guest speaker will describe her rise to success in a male-dominated industry. Lunch will be provided. ***Please make sure to register for the event. The event is limited to the first 90 registrants. This is a ticketed event and a ticket is required for entry.**

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

15. Water Theft & Water Loss (W)

16. PSC Board Member & Decision Maker Education (W/WW)

17. Harnessing (AI) Digital Twin Technology for Water & Wastewater Plants (W/WW)

This new technology helps solve the following challenges in today's utilities: performance forecasting, capacity utilization, process efficiency, Operational Intelligence, strategy simulation, proactive risk management.

18. Source Water Area Protection and Certification and Training Update (W/WW)

A look at source water protection plan approvals and electronic submittal and schedule changes; certification and training program updates; review of CEH, exams, and recertification

2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

19. Payment Reimbursement Pitfalls (W/WW)

Participants will get a general overview of our application checklist, letter of conditions, and process to loan/grant closing.

20. Current Cyber Threats Posed to Water and Wastewater Systems (W/WW)

This training would provide an overview of different threat actors, and malicious techniques being used to target water/wastewater system.

21. Revolutionizing Wastewater Treatment Through Real-Time Microbial AI (WW)

This presentation highlights the powerful biological advantages that drive real process optimization and operational excellence

22. Grant Readiness and Proposal Development for Rural Utilities

This course will examine the key components of a strong grant proposal and how to successfully prepare each section for the most competitive advantage.

23. Utility Rate Making in WV (W/WW)

Learn about the vital process of rate making. Discover what goes into rates and how to insure they are sufficient.



AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026

5:00 p.m. Awards of Excellence Banquet & Raffle Drawings

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Board Meeting

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

24. Water Operator Forum (W)

Open discussion that allows water operators from across the state an opportunity to talk about issues that are important to them, as well as gain insight from other operators.

25. Apprenticeship, a Good Solution to the Growing Operator Shortage

26. Know Your Treatment Plant, Water & Wastewater

27. Energy Reduction Strategies

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Concurrent Training Sessions

28. Wastewater Operator Forum (WW)

Open discussion that allows wastewater operators from across the state an opportunity to talk about issues that are important to them, as well as gain insight from other operators.

29. Breakpoint Chlorination (W/WW)

30. Operator Shortage & Making Time Work For You (W/WW)

31. Lead and Copper Inventory, 2026 and Beyond (W)

EPA's revised improvements and steps for water systems to verify lead in their systems.

12:30 p.m. Conference Concludes



WEST VIRGINIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL AWARDS

Purpose:

The Annual Awards Presentation is a way for WVRWA to honor and recognize its members. Although only one person or system is annually awarded, the awards are intended to praise all individuals and systems associated with the organization. Award recipients will be announced at the Awards of Excellence Banquet on Tuesday, August 11.

Eligibility & Selection:

Winners from the previous year (2025) will not be eligible for the 2026 awards. The WVRWA Awards/Scholarship Committee, composed of WVRWA Board Members, reviews all nominations and makes the final selections for the awards.

An award will not be given for the year if no nominations are received for a category.

All nominations need to include answers to the pertinent questions on the 2026 Awards Nomination Form, including a brief letter that explains why the individual or system is thought to be deserving of the award. When listing the primary reasons for nomination, the nominator can choose to make a simple list of reasons or create a detailed narrative. Nominations submitted without this letter will not be considered.

Nomination Categories

- **Office Manager of the Year**—Must currently be employed as an office manager of a water/wastewater system
- **Water Operator of the Year**—Must currently be employed as a certified water operator
- **Water System of the Year**—Must treat and/or distribute potable water for community consumption
- **Wastewater Operator of the Year**—Must currently be employed as a certified wastewater operator
- **Wastewater System of the Year**—Must treat and/or collect wastewater
- **West Virginia Rural Water Association System Manager of the Year**—Must currently be employed as a water/wastewater system manager



MAKING WAVES—WOMEN IN RURAL WATER

Attention Women in Water and Wastewater: You are Invited!

Join us for the 4th annual Making Waves—Women in Rural Water luncheon on Tuesday, August 11 from 12:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m. Making Waves is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and inspiring women throughout the water and wastewater industry. The purpose of the luncheon is to connect women in rural water, encouraging professionals to meet and share ideas, and develop important relationships.

*Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, "I'm possible!"
— Audrey Hepburn*

To attend the event, you must have a full registration or a Tuesday single day registration. The event is limited to the first 90 registrants. Each attendee will receive a complimentary keepsake, guaranteed for those who register on or before July 18. Please note: the ticket for this event will be in your registration packet.



**WEST VIRGINIA
RURAL WATER
ASSOCIATION**

Every drop counts.

Making Waves



Uniting Women in Rural Water



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Please note that all of the following Sponsorship Opportunities below will receive recognition in the conference program booklet, *Mountain State Water Line*, conference monitors, and all conference announcements.

Awards of Excellence Banquet Sponsors: \$250

This sponsorship helps fund the Awards of Excellence Banquet on Tuesday

Water on the Mountain Awards of Excellence Entertainment Sponsors: \$250

This sponsorship helps fund the Water on the Mountain Banquet Entertainment on Tuesday

Beer Sponsors: \$250

Signage will be displayed at the picnic on Sunday

Cup Sponsors: \$500

Picnic cups with your company logo

Exhibitors' Reception Sponsors: \$150

This sponsorship helps fund the Exhibitors' Reception on Monday Evening

Exhibitors' Breakfast Sponsors: \$150

This sponsorship helps fund the Exhibitors' Breakfast on Tuesday Morning

Golf Hole Sponsors: \$150

This sponsorship helps fund the golf tournament on Sunday

Lanyard Sponsors: \$1,000

Lanyards with your company logo

Making Waves—Women in Rural Water Luncheon Sponsors: \$250

This sponsorship helps fund the Making Waves Luncheon

Picnic Sponsors: \$250

This sponsorship helps fund the picnic food on Sunday

Tote Bag Sponsors: \$1,800

Tote bags with your company logo

Training Lunch Sponsors: \$150

This sponsorship helps fund the training luncheon on Monday

Training Room Sponsors (4 available): \$250

One of the four training rooms will be named after your company; your company can provide specialized advertising for the conference monitor outside your training room

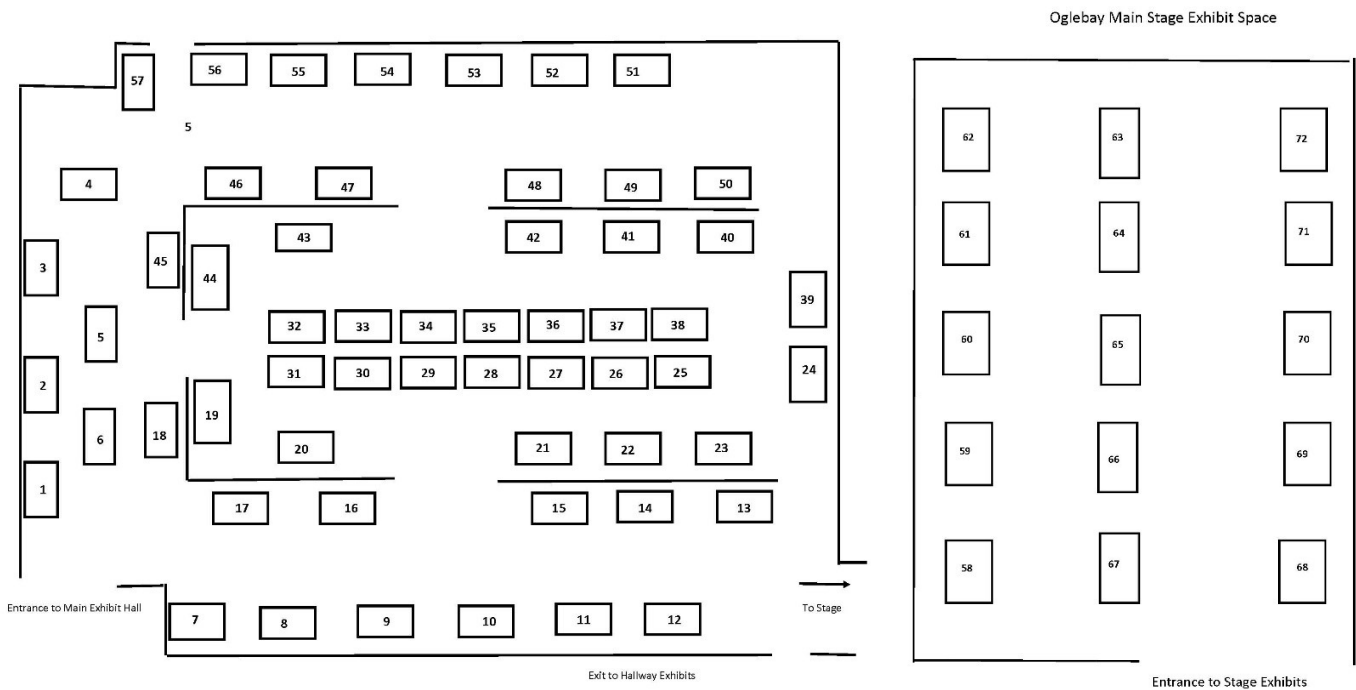
BECOME A SPONSOR
AND GET YOUR BUSINESS NOTICED



EXHIBIT HALL LAYOUT

*All exhibit booths are 10'

REGISTER TODAY
Exhibit spaces are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Register early to get the space you want and to be part of the largest water and wastewater conference in WV.



To see which booths are available, please visit our website, www.wvrwa.org, and select the Exhibitors page under the Conference section for an up-to-date, interactive exhibit hall layout.

WILSON LODGE LAYOUT

