



From the President's Desk

Paul Cassidy

Ten years ago, as a biologist for the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, I would consistently receive phone calls from individuals asking for my help in controlling weed growth or stocking fish in their private ponds. Of course, as a government employee I was not allowed to assist private individuals. What I found was that there was nobody available in New Mexico, and throughout much of the Southwest, to help out these folks. I found a niche ... private lake management, and soon Aquatic Consultants, Inc. was born.

It didn't take long for word to get around and I quickly found out that there was too much work out there for me to manage private lakes on a part-time basis, while maintaining my career with the Game and Fish Department. It was a difficult decision at the time, but in hindsight leaving the Department and dedicating all of my time to ACI was the best choice I could have made. With the help and support of countless friends, family, and employees, we made it work and ACI is achieving my vision of becoming the premier aquatic consulting firm in the West.

With our newly constructed office, the backlog of great construction and management projects, and our professional staff, ACI is positioned well for the next ten years and beyond. I would be remiss if I didn't mention and thank our clients and partners, who over the past ten years have made all of this possible. As always, thank you for your continued confidence in Aquatic Consultants, Inc.!

Thank You!

We could not have realized the dream of our new office without the Contractors who made it all possible. We would like to thank the following folks for everything they did during our construction process (and our apologies if we inadvertently left anyone off this list):

Reid and Associates
(Kevin Reid, Will Carter, John Bonney,
Jim Lopez, and Ralph Coon)
Acme Fence
Advanced Network Management
Blu-World
Brad Gunter
Contract Associates
Dennis Niedermier
DRB Electric
Dynamic Communications
Easterling Consultants

Fulbright & Company
Green River Stone
Paradise Village
Professional Security Consultants
SignCrafters
Sunrise Landscape
Taylor's Fish
Terracon
Waterjet Cutting Inc.
Window Fashions
Yearout Mechanical
Yellowjacket Designs



ACI's Grand Opening & Ten Year Anniversary Celebration

On September 19th, friends, family, colleagues and clients of ACI were on hand to join in the celebration commemorating the Grand Opening of ACI's new office and our ten year anniversary. The food and drink were fantastic, as guests stayed until the wee hours of the morning.

Special thanks to Special Touch Catering for the fantastic food and service, Swiss Alps Bakery for the delicious logo cake, Albuquerque Florists for sprucing up the office with floral arrangements, and Professional Security Consultants for directing the parking and greeting guests.

Also, a big thank you to the ACI Staff who worked countless hours organizing and preparing for this event to make it a memorable occasion for all!



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"thank yous" to those
who made it all happen.

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Fish Tales

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Ten Years and Still Growing...

Since 1998, Aquatic Consultants has evolved from a small lake management company to the premier lake and stream design, construction, and management firm in the West. What started out 10 years ago on a shoe-string budget has steadily grown into a business far exceeding our expectations. ACI now builds and manages lakes and streams in seven Western States.

Aquatic Consultants was founded in August 1998 by Paul Cassidy, who believed that a part-time consulting business would help bolster his New Mexico Department of Game and Fish income and provide much needed services to local ranch owners and golf course superintendents. Paul originally set-up shop in the garage of his Rio Rancho home.

When he wasn't performing Game and Fish duties, Paul was traveling around the state, taking care of the few clients he had and drumming up business wherever he could find it. His nights were spent muddling through the paperwork and needless to say, finding time for sleep was easier said than done.

As the client base grew, Paul added a few biologists to the staff and resigned from his position with the Game and Fish Department. With the new found growth, it was time to find a real office, and ACI leased space in Rio Rancho. There, the company continued to mature, and construction services were added to the mix. With no available shop space, ACI was forced to store equipment and materials at





RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT



RAINBOW TROUT



BROWN TROUT



SNAKE RIVER CUTTHROAT



BROOK TROUT

Ten Years...Still Growing. *Continued From Cover...*

an off-site location. Although it was a great office space, it was small and there was a real need for shop space in proximity to the office. So, in 2002 ACI moved into the Hawkins Street location in Albuquerque.

It was at this time that the business really started to grow. We were adding new management clients every month and the construction projects were getting bigger and bigger. To keep up the pace, we added biologists, construction managers, and office personnel to the staff. We were literally on top of each other in our small office space, and although work flow was smooth, it was challenging to say the least. In 2005, we purchased land on

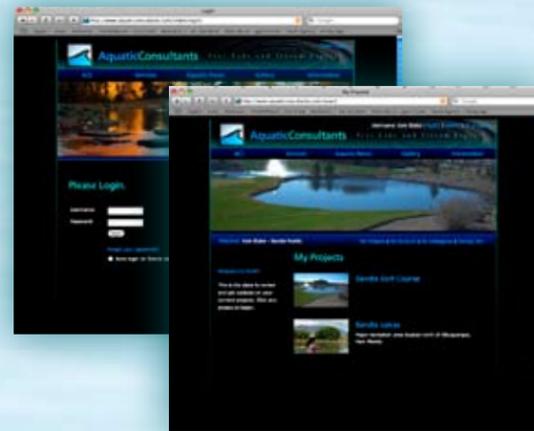


The ACI Staff at the new office on Irving NW.

Irving Blvd in northwest Albuquerque with the hopes of someday building a new office. The dream became a reality in February 2008, as Reid and Associates broke ground on our new building. After months of anticipation and packing, ACI moved into its permanent space in August 2008. The beautiful new building consists of 9,000 square feet of office space and 7,000 square feet of shop space – providing ample room for ACI to continue operations with anticipated expansion in the future. If you haven't yet had the opportunity, please stop by our new office location and meet the staff, we'd love to see you! 

Client Login Feature Added to Website

Aquatic Consultants is pleased to announce the introduction of a Client Login feature to our website. Construction clients will be able to login to their own individual area within the ACI web site to view photos and documents pertaining to their lake and stream projects. Our management clients will also find the login feature useful, as we will post monthly reports, fish stocking schedules, annual reports, and of course plenty of photos. We believe that this will allow all of you to keep updated with a few easy clicks of the mouse. Many clients have already begun using this feature and have responded with rave reviews. As a client of Aquatic Consultants, you will be receiving an e-mail with instructions on how to access your "My ACI" link. And, as always, ACI staff will be able to guide you each step of the way. 



Sandia Lakes Update

The renovation of Sandia Lakes is nearing its completion! Two beautiful large lakes encompass the south side of the property, along with picnic areas, fishing shelters, restrooms, and new shade trees. The north side of the property has a third lake for corporate and tribal events, as well as a beautiful new pavilion complete with gas grills and a full service kitchen. A state-of-the-art fish holding facility, capable of holding over 5,000 pounds of fish, is also located on the north side. Although large stockings will occur bi-weekly, the fish holding facility will allow for more frequent daily and special event stockings. Early December is the target date for the eagerly anticipated grand re-opening of this popular recreational fishing destination north of Albuquerque.

The lakes will be managed as a two-tiered fishery, with large rainbow trout being stocked during the cooler winter months and channel catfish stocked during the summer. Plan on bringing your family for an unforgettable fishing experience you'll want revisit over and over again! 



Lake Management Brief...Nutrient Management

Excess nutrient loads are one of the leading issues facing lakes and ponds of all sizes today. While nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are a vital part of any aquatic system, excessive concentrations of these nutrients can have very negative impacts on the aesthetics of surface waters. In today's modernized landscape, there are almost endless sources of nutrient contamination.

Everyday products like fertilizer, household soaps, and automotive products (like oil and antifreeze) can find their way into runoff and end up causing nutrient loading in lakes. Combine that with other natural sources of nutrients such as biological compounding from the growth and subsequent die off of aquatic vegetation and algae, fallen leaves, waste from aquatic species and birds, even cottonwood seeds can significantly add to nutrient loading issues. With so many sources of excess phosphorus and nitrogen input, it is clear why nutrient loading is perhaps the most challenging problem in lake management today. While preventative measures, such as proper storm drainage around ponds

and lakes, offer the best results; there are many sources of nutrient loading that cannot be prevented. Inputs from source water that has been loaded prior to entering a lake, water fowl waste, and fallen leaves and seeds are all sources that are difficult (if not impossible)



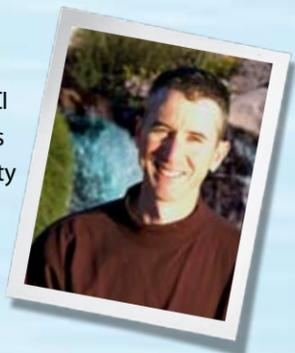
Poor nutrient management can lead to increased growth of aquatic vegetation and algae

to control in most situations. Technology for removing excess phosphorus and nitrogen from small amounts or low flows of water has long been used in industrial applications. However, the equipment necessary to process the millions of gallons of water in the lakes that we work with would require equipment the size of a small house to be effective.

Recently, ACI has partnered with Royal Environmental Systems, Inc., a storm water engineering and design company, to develop a solution to excess nutrients that is both practical and effective for our clients. We currently have installed one of these systems and we have had great success. We hope to expand our use of this new technology to help alleviate excessive nutrients, improve water quality and clarity, and better serve our clients' needs with regard to improving overall lake health. 

Staff Spotlight... Jason Rector

Having been with ACI for nearly eight years, Jason Rector is our longest-standing staff member and has helped ACI develop into what it is today, nearly from the beginning. Jason is our senior biology manager, and most recently has taken on the role of Project Manager for river restoration projects. After graduating from New Mexico State University (Fisheries Science), Jason worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for three years, specializing in stream morphology and mapping. Jason has seven years experience in lake management, water quality monitoring, aquatic vegetation control, and fish surveys. His responsibilities with ACI include oversight of the lake and stream management program, oversight of the fish stocking and survey program, and supervision of all biologists. Jason also has oversight of the design and construction of ACI's river restoration projects. He is a certified aquatic chemical applicator in New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Nebraska and Wyoming. He also serves as a member of the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the North American Lake Management Society. Jason and his wife, Shantell, just welcomed their first child, Ty Robert, into the world on August 21, 2008, weighing in at seven pounds, seven ounces, and 21 ¼ inches long – now that's a big fish! Congratulations to the Rector family, and to Jason, for all that he has accomplished and contributed to ACI. 



Meet Mandy Miller...the Newest Member of the ACI Team



Mandy Miller – Client Relations/Marketing Specialist

Mandy is our newest addition to the administrative staff at Aquatic Consultants. She received a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico in 1996. Mandy has 12 years experience in customer service, business administration and marketing. For Aquatic Consultants, Mandy assists with the day-to-day organization and operation of the office. She also assists with the marketing of the company, including developing and maintaining the web site, advertisements and brochures, preparing and distributing newsletters, reports, proposals, and other documents. 