

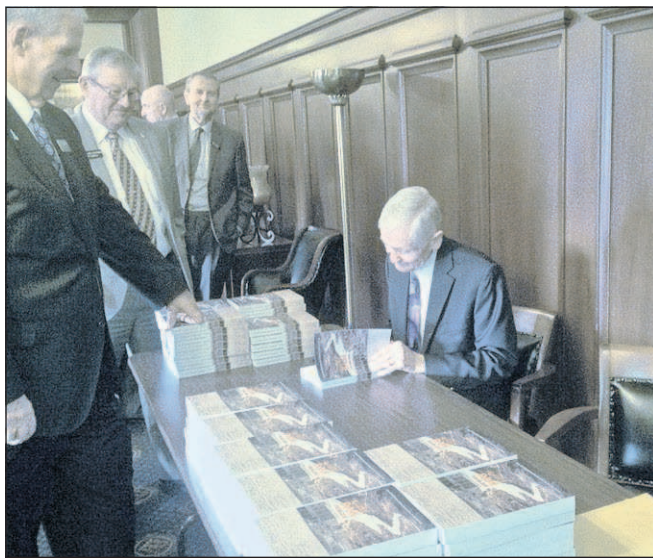
# Idaho groundwater users give lawmakers, libraries Swan Falls book

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

BOISE — State lawmakers and public libraries will receive copies of a former state Supreme Court justice's book on the cornerstone case in Idaho water law, courtesy of irrigators who belong to Idaho Ground Water Appropriators Inc.

Jim Jones, author of "A Little Dam Problem," recently retired from the state's high court and was Idaho's attorney general during the early 1980s, when a water dispute over control of the Snake River led to the historic Swan Falls Agreement.

Water experts say the 1984 agreement balanced Idaho Power's need for a predictable minimum flow at its Swan Falls power plant with the need to maintain an adequate water supply for irrigators and other users, thereby paving the way for the state's continued



Courtesy of Jim Jones

economic development. "The Swan Falls Agreement does set the framework for how we manage the Snake River system," said Brian Pat-

ton, the Idaho Department of Water Resources Planning Bureau chief, acknowledging the book raised his awareness of "a lot of the history."

IGWA Executive Director Lynn Tominaga said the book provides a behind-the-scenes account of the agreement to share with new lawmakers, and he added, "I don't know if there's a lot of water history in the public libraries."

Jones started poring through old records in his file cabinet to commence work on the project about two years ago. Caldwell-based Caxton Press published his 374-page book in December.

"The stakes were extremely high, and we were able to get a resolution that I think served everybody pretty well," Jones said. "I thought it was history that ought to be preserved so we wouldn't some time down the road end up fighting this battle again."

Jones explained Idaho Power and the state agreed in the 1950s that water rights on all of the company's Snake River dams would be subordinated to agricultural and

other upstream uses. However, in response to a suit from rate payers, Idaho Power filed a suit claiming it had a senior water right at Swan Falls. Reversing a decision by a lower court, the Supreme Court ruled in 1982 that the subordination agreement applied only to the Hell's Canyon complex of dams, and Idaho Power had a right at Swan Falls for 8,400 cubic feet per second of water.

The case was sent back to the district court to determine if additional factors would affect the company's right, but Jones explained, "Everybody went to the Legislature to see if they could win there."

Idaho Power's bills were vetoed by Democratic Gov. John Evans, an ally of Jones on the issue, and bills supported by Jones and the governor to subordinate the company's water right failed to make it through the legislature. Jones said he recruited a pair of candidates who won legislative

seats against supporters of Idaho Power.

Ultimately, however, the sides agreed no victories could be won in the Legislature and began negotiations. Idaho Power officials declined to comment for this story.

The agreement promised Idaho Power minimum flows of 3,900 cfs at Swan Falls in the summer and 5,600 cfs during winter — the difference between the company's specified water right and the lesser volume it's granted under the agreement is known as trust water. The agreement also called for the Snake River Basin Adjudication, which was only recently completed and cataloged all of the system's water rights.

"Over the years, a lot of people had gotten water rights on paper that were significantly more than what they used," Jones said. "If you're not using it, it should go to somebody else."

## Calif. citrus industry to boost assessments to battle psyllid

By TIM HEARDEN  
Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — A bill that would enable the citrus industry to boost spending to battle the Asian citrus psyllid and huanglongbing is headed to Gov. Jerry Brown's desk.

Legislators unanimously approved the bill by state Sen. Cathleen Galgiani, D-Stockton, that allows for an additional \$9.6 million in grower assessments to be spent by the California Department of Food and Agriculture for psyllid control programs.

The legislation follows a previous bill signed by Brown that enables the industry to raise its assessment from 9 cents per 40-pound carton. A separate bill was needed to authorize state agencies to spend the money. "That's all industry money that's funded to operate the program," said Joel Nelsen, president of California Citrus Mutual. "It's operated through CDFA, so it looks like general fund (in the state budget)."

Depending on crop sizes, the assessment generates



Courtesy Calif. Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program

between \$15 million and \$18 million a year and is matched by nearly \$11 million in federal funds, Nelsen said. A committee will decide this fall how much the assessment will be raised, he said.

The grower-funded Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program was created through legislation in 2009, and growers have since invested more than \$100 million in the program, according to

Citrus Mutual. Most of that money has gone to trapping, treatments and surveys in urban areas to stop the spread of the psyllid and huanglongbing, the deadly citrus tree disease that the psyllid can carry.

As of late April, huanglongbing had killed 54 residential trees in Southern California, but the disease has not yet migrated to the Golden State's commercial groves.

## Beekeepers build high-tech storage to improve hive survival

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

SHELLEY, Idaho — Beekeeper Adam French plans to build a large, modern facility in which he'll store hives, hoping to curb his winter-kill losses.

French, with Cox's Honey, explained he wants as many hives as possible to survive the winter so he can take full advantage of increasing demand for pollination services in California's almond orchards. He's noticed a trend of regional beekeepers investing in bee storage lately, rather than leaving hives exposed to the elements or turning to the historic standby among Idaho apiaries — renting space in potato cellars.

In the past five years, French estimates almond producers have increased payments for pollinators by \$35 to \$50 per hive to the \$175-\$210 range. According to USDA, California's rapidly growing almond industry produced a crop valued at more than \$5 billion in 2015 and stepped up its acreage by 7 percent to 1.24 million acres in 2016.

"The incentive is now greater than it's ever been to have those bees alive in the winter," French said.

For several years, his family has stored up to 10,000 hives in uninsulated "shell" buildings during the cold months preceding late January, when the bees are needed in California. He's also leased space in a local potato cellar for the surplus hives. Though both options have served him well, French said his storage buildings are outdated, and he can't always count on finding an available potato cellar.

Last winter, he was forced to leave 2,100 colonies outdoors, and he lost 500 of them.

Next year, French plans to build a new facility in Nampa with the capacity to hold 15,000 colonies — allowing him to expand production. His building will be insulated and climate-controlled to maintain a constant temperature, and it



Courtesy of Israel Bravo

will be modeled after a new facility built for Noyes Apiary in New Plymouth, Idaho.

Last fall, Shaun Steele, with Steele Apiaries in Eagle, Idaho, invested nearly \$600,000 to build a 15,000-square-foot bee storage building, frustrated by rising lease rates for potato storages. In his first winter in the new building, Steele stored 3,500 of his colonies and leased space for 9,800 colonies to local beekeepers.

Last fall in Twin Falls, Israel Bravo and the local potato cellar manufacturer, Agri-Stor, built a cutting-edge bee storage facility with technology to regulate humidity, carbon dioxide and temperature using a smart phone.

In its first winter, Bravo

said the "smart storage" lost just 6 percent of the 17,000 colonies held for a Texas beekeeper.

Bravo will be breaking ground soon on another Twin Falls storage facility, with plans to rent space to area beekeepers. He said he and Agri-Stor may build a third building next year. They also intend to offer equipment comprising the "brains" of their facilities to small, regional beekeepers, enabling them to retrofit existing buildings to have controlled temperatures, carbon dioxide and humidity.

Bravo finds the high humidity, dusty air and pesticide traces in potato storages are often less than ideal for bees.

## NAFTA renegotiation prompts farm tariff investigation

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

U.S. trade experts will study the economic effects of eliminating tariffs on Canadian and Mexican farm goods in anticipated negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The U.S. International Trade Commission will investigate a list of nearly 400 "import sensitive agricultural products" to see if any are still subject to tariffs under NAFTA, as well as the impact of removing those tariffs on the U.S. economy.

Many of the items on the list are dairy products, fruit and vegetable crops, oils, sweeteners and processed ingredients, but it's unclear how many are still subject to tariffs.

The investigation was launched due to a request by

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who asked USITC to keep information related to "probable economic effects" confidential for 10 years due to national security concerns.

A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for June 20 in Washington, D.C., and the USITC plans to submit its report to Lighthizer on Aug. 16.

It's likely the Trump administration may offer to eliminate certain tariffs to persuade Canada to get rid of programs aimed at curbing overproduction in its dairy and poultry industries, said Steve Suppan, senior policy analyst at the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy.

The U.S. is also opposed to Canada's higher quality standards for grain, which allow less non-grain material in

bulk shipments and impose a barrier to U.S. grain exports, Suppan said.

"I've got to believe it's a preparation for a trade-off proposal," he said.

The U.S. generally opposes "supply management" programs aimed at controlling agricultural production but supports them in other contexts, such as for Chinese steel and aluminum production, Suppan said.

It's "striking" that Lighthizer wants to keep certain information confidential for 10 years, he said.

The U.S. likely expects to use the report to support its arguments for renegotiating NAFTA, but keeping information about methodology secret would prevent independent analysis of the agency's econometric studies, Suppan said.



**TIMOREX GOLD®**  
THE NEW GENERATION  
OF BIOFUNGICIDES

Introducing Timorex Gold® fungicide for control of the most common fungal and bacterial diseases in specialty fruit and vegetable crops. Flexible enough to use early in the season to keep disease pressures low and late in the season thanks to its short PHI and REI, Timorex Gold keeps you in charge of your disease control program. And, with Timorex Gold's unique mode of action and FRAC code, it is the ideal tank-mix and rotational partner. Add Timorex Gold fungicide to your spray program this season and reap the harvest of your good choices.

Ask for Timorex Gold at your local  
Simplot Grower Solutions dealer!

**Simplot**  
GROWER SOLUTIONS

Broad Spectrum Activity  
Against Plant Pathogens

- No Residue Restrictions
- Non-toxic to Bees and Beneficials
- Excellent Resistance Management Tool
- Unique Mode of Action



www.timorexgold.com