30 Things You Didn’t Know About The Groundwater Foundation

1. The Groundwater Foundation has had three homes – founder Susan Seacrest’s kitchen, 5561 South 48th Street, and 3201 Pioneers Boulevard, all in Lincoln, Nebraska.

2. The Foundation was incorporated on October 23, 1985.

3. It was originally named the Nebraska Groundwater Foundation.

4. Seacrest started the Foundation after correspondence with Dr. Dennis Weisenberger in 1984, who urged her to learn all she could, explaining that until citizens such as her became engaged and involved, no progress would be possible.

5. The first official action of the Board of Directors was to create a groundwater conference.

6. The first Board minutes and newsletters were typed on an IBM Selectric typewriter.

7. The Foundation bestows the Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award each year to a Nebraskan who has made a substantive contribution to the protection of the state’s groundwater.

8. Ted Kooser, 13th Poet Laureate of the United States, was the first editor of The Aquifer.


10. The Foundation currently has seven employees.


12. The walls in our new office space are painted gray, blue, and yellow. Stop in and check it out sometime!

13. The first Nebraska Children’s Groundwater Festival was held in 1989.

14. Susan Seacrest was named a Hero for the Planet in Time Magazine in 1999.

15. The Groundwater Foundation was featured in the March 1993 issue of National Geographic.

16. Foundation staff participate in Spirit Days, which usually include fun games like office bowling, office tennis, and trivia.

17. Jan Schlichtman, the lawyer in A Civil Action, spoke at the 1996 National Conference.

18. Over its 30 years, 71 individuals have served on the Board of Directors.

20. Executive Vice President Cindy Kreifels started out as Data Manager, then was Groundwater Guardian Director and Executive Director before being named Executive Vice President.

21. Over its 30 years, 38 employees and countless volunteers have helped educate people and protect groundwater.

22. President Jane Griffin is fluent in Italian, and lived in Italy for 16 years.

23. The Foundation’s newest employees, Jessica Wheeler and Anthony Lowndes, are both graduates of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

24. Database Manager Lori Davison has been on the Foundation's staff since its inception.

25. The quarterly newsletter, The Aquifer, was published and distributed in hard copy until switching to electronic distribution in 2011.

26. Communications Manager Jennifer Wemhoff’s two children were born during Groundwater Awareness Weeks in 2011 and 2014.

27. In 1998, the Foundation held an International Youth Groundwater Summit, which brought youth from each of the continents (except Antarctica) to Grand Island, Nebraska to look to the future of groundwater.

28. Financial Services Accountant Doug Sams has been on the job since 2006, and makes sure the Foundation's dollars and cents make sense.

29. The Foundation launched its website in 1996, and was last redesigned in 2013.

30. The GF has had three logos, and has used its current logo since 1991.