



## List of 30

# 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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, 13<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate of the United States, was the *first editor* of [The Aquifer](#).
9. The first paid Foundation staff members began in **1992**.
10. The Foundation currently has *seven employees*.
11. The Groundwater Foundation moved to its **current office space** in January 2014.
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](#).

19. The Foundation's [Groundwater Guardian program](#) began in 1994. A spinoff, the [Green Site program](#), launched in 2007.
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.