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Sanford Britt Wins National Ground Water Association 2006 Equipment Design Award

Sanford (Sandy) Britt, PG, of Fairport, New York, has received the National Ground Water Association's (NGWA) 2006 Equipment Design Award presented to an individual or team for excellence in the design of equipment or a product that promotes safety as well as efficiency and ease of operation.

The award recognizes his development of the Snap Sampler ground water sampling device. Britt is principal hydrogeologist with ProHydro, Inc. in Fairport.

The Snap Sampler allows a ground water sample to be taken down in the well without exposing it to outside contaminants upon retrieval. Its double-ended bottles are triggered to close by a trip lever system operated from the well head (top of the well).

Once retrieved, the bottles remain closed and can be submitted to the analytical laboratory without exposure to atmospheric air. Errors from sample handling and variations in sampling methodology are avoided with this device. Improved safety and lower cost is achieved with less field equipment to move and maintain.

Prior to forming ProHydro in 2004, Britt worked for the California Department of Toxic Substances Control as an engineering geologist.

"Mr. Britt exemplifies the kind of ingenuity and innovation that keeps pushing ground water industry technology to higher levels," said NGWA Awards Subcommittee Chair Larry Lyons. "By enabling ground water professionals to take more accurate samples, both science and water well owners are better served."

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