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**NEWS RELEASE**

October 26, 2015

**CONTACT**

Donna Kemp Spangler  
Communications Director  
Office: 801-536-4484  
Cell: 801-554-4944  
[dspangler@utah.gov](mailto:dspangler@utah.gov)

## Sam Rushforth Honored with Prestigious Sudweeks Award

SALT LAKE CITY – The Water Quality Board will recognize Dr. Sam Rushforth, a noted researcher and professor that played an important role to establish the “Utah Lake Symposium,” as this year’s recipient of the Calvin K. Sudweeks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Water Quality when it meets Wednesday at 9 a.m. DEQ Building Board Room 1015, 195 North 1950 West.

Each year, the Water Quality Board recognizes an individual who has shown outstanding leadership and achievement in the field of water quality. Rushforth, co-director of Rushforth Phycology LLC, an independent laboratory providing algal analysis for water bodies throughout Utah, has served as a vital source of information on the health of Utah’s waters.

As dean of the College of Science and Health at Utah Valley University, Rushforth played an important role in establishing the annual “Utah Lake Symposium,” a forum of discussions about the ecology and health of the lake. Dr. Rushforth, a former biology professor at Brigham Young University, conducted research that led to dramatic improvements to Deer Creek Reservoir, which suffered from significant impairment from agriculture and development. Similarly, his work to analyze algal in Jordanelle Reservoir have proven successful in reducing algae blooms.

“The degree of influence that Dr. Rushforth has had on the water quality profession in Utah cannot be overstated, owed in equal measure to his many years of research and impeccable scientific reputation and his dedication to the health of the environment and the people who live, work and play in it,” said Walt Baker, director of the Division of Water Quality. “His friendly and easy-going nature has made Sam a highly effective ambassador for the protection and improvement of water quality in Utah.”

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### About DEQ

Established in 1991, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality’s (DEQ) mission is to safeguard public health and quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment. DEQ implements state and federal environmental laws and works with individuals, community groups and businesses to protect the quality of Utah’s air, land and water. For more information, visit [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), follow DEQ on Facebook ([utahdeq](https://www.facebook.com/utahdeq)) and Twitter ([UtahDEQ](https://twitter.com/UtahDEQ)), or call 1-800-458-0145.