

Meet Our New Editor-in-Chief Momcilo Markus



JAWRA Editor-in-Chief Momcilo Markus stops for a photo with his wife and sons near a Colorado Lake. Source: Momcilo Markus

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE THE NEW EDITOR

in Chief of the Journal for American Water Resource Association (JAWRA), Dr. Momcilo Markus! He brings with him a wealth of expertise and significant experience in research, industry, academia, and government, dealing with water issues in Europe and in the United States. His current work includes hydroclimatic studies and evaluation of the hydrologic effects of climate change, such as nonstationary precipitation or changing riverine nutrient and sediment loadings. Formerly, Dr. Markus worked with the National Weather Service's ensemble river forecasting system, FEMA flood insurance mapping program, and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District's subalpine hydrologic modeling for municipal water supply. He is committed to increasing the uptake of open science practices in the water resources community, and advocates for more transparency in the process of research practice.

Dr. Markus has kindly answered some of our burning questions about him, his background, and what he plans to bring to JAWRA. Get to know him a little better with this short interview.

How will your background and expertise contribute to the continued success of JAWRA?

As a water professional, I see JAWRA as a large and powerful engine. It started huffing and puffing in 1965 and, over time, has transformed into a modern, high-speed train. It took enormous work to get there, and it will take a sustained and well-organized team effort to continue its success in the future. JAWRA has a long and rich history, and a vision that encompasses recent and emerging issues such as global pandemics, climate change, demographic shifts, and environmental equity. I am confident that my experience—along with the complementary experience of both the

management and editorial teams—will continue fulfilling the journal's vision.

What are your thoughts on the future of JAWRA?

I see the journal increasing its presence at conferences and on social media and enhancing its visibility among members. The journal will continue to support AWRA members and its wider audience by fostering professional debate in the wider national and international community.

In your view, what are the most exciting developments in water resources today?

We are living through a period of accelerating change. New challenges and new risks appear faster than ever before. In recent years we have seen unprecedented weather extremes, pandemic, large-scale violence, and mass migrations. The stakes are high, the challenges are significant, but there are many opportunities for solving water resources problems.

What is a topic in water resources research you wish you knew more about?

I have always been interested in engineering issues (such as improving our ability to simulate and predict complex hydrologic processes, based on ever-increasing large data sets, powerful supercomputers and artificial intelligence, or increasing our ability to understand the interdependence between complex hydroclimatic and biogeochemical processes). In recent years, however, my interests have shifted toward global issues in water resources. These include, for example, the changing (nonstationary) climate, as well as land use and demographic shifts. Going forward, many worldwide water resource challenges will focus on negotiating an increased need for water on one hand, and the limited water supply on the other. Experts best qualified to solve global water issues will need to have a broad understanding of scientific, engineering, economic, and social aspects of these issues.

What is a fun fact about you?

My father served as the EIC of a naval research journal in the 1960s in former Yugoslavia. I never planned to become an EIC, but when the opportunity came up I accepted the position quickly. Some things run in the family and repeat themselves.

What are you currently reading?

I just finished reading *Quo Vadis, America?* (1999) by professor Vujica Yevjevich, one of the most prominent hydrologists of the twentieth century and one of my dissertation committee members at Colorado State University. Interestingly, his book reaches beyond his water expertise. He offers an analysis of political, social, and cultural trends in the United States—I think his predictions and recommendations are still very valid and helpful today. ■