

NightOwl Monitoring Co-Founder Jim Blair Receives NGWA 2026 Technology Award

The honor recognizes practical tools that give well owners live visibility into their water, replacing surprise failures with early warnings and planned fixes.



Austin, Texas Oct 26, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Jim Blair, co-founder of NightOwl Monitoring and owner of Bee Cave Drilling, is receiving the 2026 Technology Award from the National Ground Water Association. The award honors people whose work has moved the groundwater industry forward, and Blair's work on well monitoring is the reason his name is on this year's list.

The Technology Award recognizes individuals who have made a major contribution to the groundwater industry in the development of ideas, tools, and equipment, in techniques of well construction, and in service for the protection of the groundwater resource and the consuming public. It is a peer recognition from the industry's national association, given to work that changes how groundwater is found, built for, and protected.

Blair's monitoring work grew out of [water well monitoring problems](#) that well owners know too well: a pump that quits without warning, a tank that runs dry overnight, and a remote site that can only be checked by driving out to it. NightOwl Monitoring was built to answer those problems with live information instead of guesswork, so owners learn about trouble while there is still time to act.

NightOwl Monitoring designs smart water well monitoring and control solutions. Its systems give owners real-time visibility into water wells, storage tanks, and pumping systems, so the state of a whole water setup can be checked from one place instead of pieced together from separate gauges, visits, and phone calls.

At the center of the system is the cloud-based NightOwl Live Dashboard. It shows water levels, power usage, and equipment performance from any connected device, and it sends instant alerts when something needs attention. An owner can check a well from home, from the office, or from the road, and know whether the system is running as it should.

The system also allows remote control, so owners can reset power, operate valves, and control pumps without a trip to the site. The platform is agnostic, working with virtually any well system or sensor, and it scales from a single residential well to community and commercial water systems, farms, and small water systems.

That combination of live visibility, alerts, and remote control is what [remote water well monitoring](#) is meant to provide: fewer surprises, fewer wasted trips, and problems caught while they are still small. For owners of remote sites, that shift from reacting to planning is the practical value behind the award.

The Problems Well Owners Face Without Monitoring

A pump motor can fail without anyone noticing until the tank is empty. By the time the failure shows up as a dry tap, the household, the farm, or the small water system it serves has already lost its supply, and the repair has become an emergency instead of a scheduled job.

Tanks can also run dry overnight when draw outpaces refill. Evening use pulls the level down, the well cannot keep up, and by morning there is nothing left to draw on. Without a live level reading, the first sign of the problem is the moment the water stops.

Other problems come from distance and delay. Owners drive out to remote sites just to read a gauge, and they run their systems reactively, on surprises instead of trends. A site that looks fine during a visit can fail the next day, and nobody knows until someone goes back.

The view gets harder as systems grow. Many sites have no single view, so wells, tanks, and pumps must each be checked on their own. Water quality becomes a guessing game between manual samples, and a power fault can stop everything at a remote site while the owner remains unaware.

How Monitoring Changes the Routine

Continuous level tracking replaces the occasional gauge reading with a live picture of the water supply. Owners can see the level rise and fall through the day, spot a trend before it becomes a failure, and turn what would have been a reactive scramble into a scheduled fix.

One dashboard brings every well, tank, and pump into a single view. Power monitoring on every leg shows whether the electrical supply is healthy, so a fault is flagged as an equipment or power problem rather than discovered as a dry tank. Remote control then lets the owner respond without waiting for a site visit.

Water-quality tracking adds the same discipline to what comes out of the tap. Instead of guessing between manual samples, owners get ongoing tracking with monthly reports, so changes in quality show

up as a pattern over time rather than as a surprise at the next sample.

Drilling Experience Behind the Tools

The award connects two parts of Blair's work. He owns Bee Cave Drilling, a drilling company, and he co-founded NightOwl Monitoring, a monitoring company. The monitoring tools sit alongside the drilling work, and both serve the same people: well owners who depend on groundwater every day.

That pairing matters because the problems monitoring solves are the problems drilling work runs into in the field. A pump that fails unnoticed, a tank that empties overnight, and a remote site that can only be checked in person are not abstract issues. They are the daily reality of owning and operating a well, and the tools recognized by this award were built around that reality.

Awards of this kind also point to a wider shift in the industry. Groundwater work once depended on periodic visits and manual readings, and monitoring tools now let owners watch their systems continuously. That change does not replace drilling skill or field experience, but it gives owners and drillers a shared, live picture of how a system behaves between visits.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NGWA Technology Award?

It is an award from the National Ground Water Association that recognizes individuals who have made a major contribution to the groundwater industry. The contribution covers the development of ideas, tools, and equipment, techniques of well construction, and service for the protection of the groundwater resource and the consuming public.

Who is Jim Blair?

Jim Blair is the co-founder of NightOwl Monitoring and the owner of Bee Cave Drilling. He is receiving the 2026 Technology Award from the National Ground Water Association for his contribution to the groundwater industry through well monitoring work.

What does NightOwl Monitoring do?

NightOwl Monitoring designs smart monitoring, alerts, and remote control solutions for water wells, storage tanks, pumps, and utilities. Its systems give owners real-time visibility into their water setups, with instant alerts when something needs attention.

What can owners see on the NightOwl Live Dashboard?

Owners can see water levels, power usage, and equipment performance from any connected device. The cloud-based dashboard covers wells, tanks, and pumping systems in one view, and it sends instant alerts so problems are caught early.

Does the system work with an existing well setup?

Yes. The platform is agnostic and works with virtually any well system or sensor. It scales from a single residential well to community and commercial water systems, farms, and small water systems.

About NightOwl Monitoring

NightOwl Monitoring designs smart monitoring, alerts, and remote control solutions for water wells, storage tanks, pumps, and utilities. Its cloud-based NightOwl Live Dashboard shows water levels, power usage, and equipment performance from any connected device, with instant alerts and remote control for power, valves, and pumps.

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