

Dear GEAA members and friends,

I am pleased to announce that we have a very special new member of the GEAA staff. Meet Rose Wamalwa...



Rose visits Bracken Bat Preserve

Rose is the founder and program director of *Women in Water and Natural Resources Conservation (WE-CAN)* in Kakamega, Kenya. While she is here, Rose will work with us on GEAA projects devised to mitigate non-point source pollution of our water resources. She hopes to establish relationships and learn about water quality and water conservation programs that can translate into the creation of similar projects in Africa.

Rose is here on a four-month fellowship as part of the [Community Solutions Program](#) of the U.S. Department of State, in partnership with IREX. The Community Solutions Program is a professional development program for the best and brightest global community leaders that matches global leaders with organizations across the United States to collaborate on projects and leave them better positioned to make lasting change in their home communities. GEAA was chosen as one of 60 American organizations to host Community Solutions Leaders this fall.

Born and raised in rural Kenya, Rose recalls walking 5 km. with a jerrican balanced on her head to bring home water. Growing up she experienced the abuse, harassment and discrimination of women in her community. WE-CAN was created in response to the need to strengthen and build home grown

capacity, empowering African women to seek solutions for African communities.

Rose's goal is to pursue an integrated socio-economic and cultural development approach in the fight against poverty and social exclusion through grass-root organizing of communities and families. In Collaboration the *Global Women Water Initiative*, WE-CAN has trained 3000 women In Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania on WASH and its related technologies, and has constructed 50 rain water harvesting tanks and 20 ventilated pit latrines.

We hope that while she is here, Rose will be able to visit with our members to share her experiences as the founder and leader of WE-CAN. If you are a member of an organization or congregation that would like to learn more about women's and water issues in Africa and how you can support Rose's efforts in her homeland, we invite you to join Rose in her walk of change and hope for the grass-root women in East Africa. You can contact Rose at [rosewamalwa08@yahoo.com](mailto:rosewamalwa08@yahoo.com) to invite her to come and speak to your group.

Thanks in advance to the GEAA member group leaders who will be sharing information about thier programs with Rose this fall. We anticipate that Rose's fellowship with GEAA will be a wonderful experience for all of us!

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director, [Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)