

INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE CENTER
FOR RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND
SANITATION

How to find water with a "divining rod".

by Otto D. Rosse msc

Drinking Water Decade

The drinking water decade (1981 - 1990) was launched by the U.N. General Assembly in order to focus world attention and action on the needs of 2 billion people in developing countries for safe, accesible drinking water.

Many methods

In order to achieve this purpose, the first thing to be done is finding water. Many methods are used to locate water sources. There are complicated and expensive methods for water exploration, unavailable for the common people. Satelite photos are made of parts of Africa, aerial survey is performed of target places. Very useful but expensive methods.

Divining Rod

Fortunately, nature itself provided man with a kind of computer, a natural ability to find water. The device to register this is called divining rod or "diviner". This is a natural, cheap method which has been used already for centuries. People can help themselves and be self-reliant in looking for water sources. It apparently works well and is easy to learn.

The problem.

It might be of interest of those working for the welfare of the people to get some information about finding water in places where there is shortage. For people in developed countries it is just taken for granted that they have water in their homes. For them it simply would be unthinkable that they occupy a house without water. You just have to turn one of the many faucets and you have unlimited water. But in the developing countries this is a big problem. People might be lucky if the town or village has some communal faucets along the streets where people are lining up to get a share. But it often happens that the supply system breaks down, or that there is no water at all. That means to say: no water for drinking, washing or taking a bath; and that in the tropics!!

Private initiatives.

People have taken the initiative to dig a well for a pump in order to have their own water supply for household or irrigation. However, many have tried to put up their own pump without result. They just started digging without knowing if there would be water in the ground. Would they have known how to explore a place for water, it could have saved them a lot of time, money and effort. Sometimes it was just a distance of less than a meter.

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Who can do it.

I have taught already many people how to find water. My observation is that only 8% of the people I tried to teach, did not have the ability. Of the 92% who felt the vibrations, 50% felt it strongly. Of the 42% who felt it only faintly, half of them improved considerably by practicing.

What tools can be used as "diviner".

- Some use a branch of a tree.
- Some use a iron wire.
- I know a person who does it with his bare hands.
- Personally I use brass, copper rods.

Where to buy it.

It is for sale in hardware stores as welding rod. They are available in different specifications. Most are 90 cm or 1 m long, but they can be thick and thin. Some like a thin rod, some like it a little bit heavier.

How to prepare it.

The best is: cut the rod in half, make a handle on both ends of about 12 cm, the remaining portion being 45 or 50 cm. My personal experience, however, is that it does not matter much how long the rod and handle is. Sometimes I use long rods: the handle is 20 cm and the rest 80 cm. I have seen also people with a very small rod of 10 cm with a handle of 5 cm. All have the same results, because the power is not in the diviner, but in the man himself.

How to hold it.

Close your index finger and thumb to a ring. Put your hands a little outward. Insert the rods so that it will touch your forefinger and the palm of your hand. Hold your hands at about 30 cm distance of each other in front of you. Keep the rods somewhat down.

How to locate water.

Walk slowly. If you come near to a watervein, the two rods are coming together like a magnet. If you are exactly on top of the vein the rods will be parallel to each other and your breast. If you have past the watervein and the vibrations, current, magnetism or how you will call it, ceases, the rods return to the original position straight ahead of you.



The four stadia of the position of the divining rods.

Where to locate water.

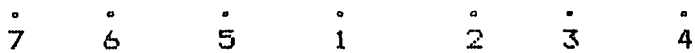
- Only running water will be registered, not stagnant water. Also running water in a waterpipe. You can try it. Keep the rods near a faucet. Let somebody open the faucet so that the water is running out. The rods will register it.

- The rods will register water in the ground, even you are at the second floor of a building.

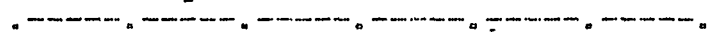
The best place.

The best place for digging a well is at a crossing of two waterveins. To look for it, is done as follows:

- 1) When you hit water for the first time, put a sign: stick, stone, paper.
- 2) Go back and start again a little to the right, till you hit again. Put a sign.
- 3) Continue in the same manner at the right and left, about seven times.

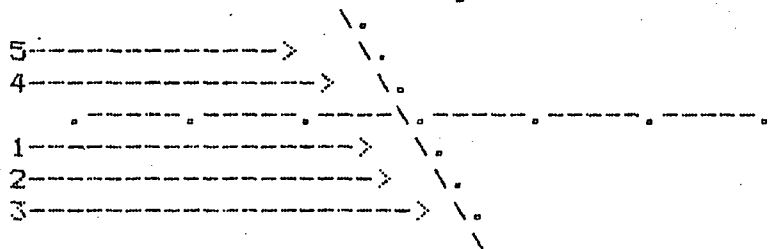


- 4) Lay out a rope at the signs.



- 5) You now walk parallel with the rope till you (might) hit again a vein crossing the rope.

- 6) Do it 5 times and make signs.



At the spot where you get a crossing, there is a double flow of water of two waterveins. That is the best place to dig a well. However, it is possible that two veins crossing each other are on a different depth.

Where not to dig.

Keep a considerable distance of a septic tank or a dirty waterpool. Dig at least up to 10 meters below the surface to avoid contamination.

How deep.

There is also a possibility to determine how deep the water-vein is located.

The experimental method is as follows: from the first movement or vibration of the rods, count the distance up to the place where the rods have moved parallel with your body. The same length will be the depth of the stream from the ground level. (Dalapat M. Danitharia, India).

The other method is more paranormal. You are standing above a water-vein because your two rods are registering it by coming together. Now, willfully and intentionally, you straighten them in front of you. You imagine that you are digging a hole or that you go down. By every count of one meter or one foot, the rods will come a little nearer to each other. When they are back at the original position, you know the depth. Once I checked it with a companion. He was counting in meters and I in feet. After 6 counts his sticks had joined again. It took me 20 counts. (20 feet = 6 meters)

How to drill or to dig.

When you drill or dig, go as far as you counted the location of the watervein. Then drill slowly, checking constantly if you have hit the watervein, because in case you go beyond it, you might not get water anymore.

How much water

If you have acquired already the capability of locating a water source, you will easily feel also the strength of the current. Weak current means little water, strong current means much water. Before digging a well, choose the best place with plenty of water.

Potable water

Having found water, your rods will swing somewhat continuously. Take now some salt in your hand. If the swinging stops, it is potable water; if the swinging continues, the water is salty. In the same way you can find out if the water is polluted with acid, or contains iron etc. Some people have a set of small bottles with all kinds of chemicals and ore. They test the water by holding each and every bottle in their hand to find out what kind of water it is.

Why many people can do it.

As there is little official literature about it, we do not know much about it. There are several theories.

- It might be a special power in some people, kind of charism, or a certain ability.
- Some think that it is black magic.
- A scientific explanation of the divining rod came from Ir Sikke A. Hempenius, professor at the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC), 350 Boulevard 1945 P.O.Box 6 7500 AA Enschede Holland. He has given me the following explanation:

"Water often effects the local magnetic field of the earth somewhat, because the dissolved particles and sediments usually contain iron, nickel, manganese and cobalt in pure or chemically bound form (molecules, crystals, ions etc.)."

These and some other chemical elements have a high magnetic susceptibility, a 'magnetic' property, which means that they 'attract' the magnetic field's lines of force. Consequently, the earth magnetic field is somewhat stronger over an area with a higher than average amount of these constituents, whereas just outside that area, the field is somewhat weaker than normal.

An electrically conductive hoop, held more or less horizontally, encircles a variable number of magnetic lines of force, depending on the location. Right over the area with a higher amount of iron etc., the number is higher than normal; whereas just outside that area, it is lower than normal.

When the hoop is moved horizontally over the anomaly, an electric current is induced in the electrical loop, in the same manner as in a dynamo, where a loop is rotating in a constant magnetic field.

When walking with a divining rod over an underground water vein, a fluctuating (very small) electric current is induced in the loop, consisting of left hand, twig or rod, right hand/arm, body, left arm.

Obviously, the divining rod should be electrically conductive, so a metal rod or wire would do, and a forked twig of freshly cut moist wood (of certain types of trees, for instance in NW Europe: hazel, willow) will be a good alternative. Moreover, it helps when the person is concentrating mentally on the job to be done, as he or she is then likely to sweat in the hands, and so has a conductive skin. Perspiration is quite salty, hence it forms a good conductor. The relatively large loop, formed by the arms, the chest and the rod, is part of a "human" dynamo, when the person is walking through the terrain.

How is it, that we can sense the rather small electrical current or very low electrical voltage? People are for sure not equipped with an ampere- or volt-meter! Lies the secret then in the tool, the rod or twig? No, it is not the divining rod which is the sensor, nor is the divining rod attracted by water. It is the hands of the dowser which provide the ultimate effect, that is, the rod moves contrary to the will and commands of the walking person. The explanation is as follows.

As the hands are held in an unusual fashion when holding the rod(s), a faint but continuous electrical signal is sent from the brain to the muscles of the hands and arms. Now a second electrical signal is generated by the rod and the movement (often "walking") and this signal interferes with the first one, without knowledge of the person. The person cannot feel its effect directly; the signals are too weak. But the results can be seen and observed: the hands lose control over the instrument which

starts moving.

Depending on how the dowser is holding the rod with his/her hands (fingers, wrists, arms), the rod moves in a characteristic way and will temporarily point in a typical direction. The dowser feels as if the rod is moving on its own, which is incorrect, but as a skilled operator he or she knows how to interpret the movement: where it is best to drill for water and approximately how deep to go.

This is only a qualitative explanation; a quantitative analysis is beyond our scope and power. Still I hope that this bit of basic physics and biology takes away your fear for being cheated with black magic or occultism.

To summarize the explanation of the Professor:

THE PRINCIPLE

The clue lies in the movement of an (electrically) conductive piece of material (freshly cut twig of moist wood, metal rod, wire etc.) in a magnetic field which varies from place to place.

THE TOOL

The Dutch word for the activity is "wichelroede lopen" (divining rod walking). When walking through a magnetic field with a local anomaly, a (small) electric current is generated in the loop: 'left hand, twig/rod, right hand, arm, body, left arm'.

Swinging a copper rod with one arm/hand when standing at one point, may also generate a fluctuating current, but a large loop is to my opinion a better tool. The magnetic field of the earth should have an anomaly at that spot.

THE PERSON

The person should concentrate mentally on the job at hand and his hands should have a conductive skin (sweat is a good conductor). Not everybody can fulfill this condition at the right moment, although many people can do it.

THE SENSOR

As the hands are held in an unusual fashion when holding the rod(s), a faint but continuous electrical signal is sent from the brain to the muscles of the hands and arms. Now a second electrical signal is generated by the rod and the movement, and this signal interferes with the first one, without the knowledge of the person. He (she) cannot feel its effect directly; the signals are too weak. But the result can be seen and observed: the hands lose control over the rod and the thing starts moving. It is not the rod, but the hands which are the motor behind it, but the operator does not know it.

THE OBJECT

One item is still to be dealt with: why is water changing the earth's magnetic field? Well, running water does it to some degree. Water contains electrically charged particles, magnetized iron particles, and it seems to effect the earth's magnetic field somewhat. So over sub-surface running water, a magnetic anomaly is to be expected."

So far the explanation of Professor Engineer Hempenius.

Capability of finding water

If you have practised already for some time to find water with divining rods, you get a kind of feeling or ability about it. While in the beginning you have to walk very slowly to feel the 'current', later on you feel it immediately, even you walk faster. While riding in a train in my native country, I took out my divining rods. Every time we passed the many rivers and creeks with a speed of 120 Km/H, the rods clicked together.

Tracing a vein

Not all water-vein are running in a straight line. Like rivers, the veins can be curved. If you take only one rod in one hands, you can follow that vein exactly. When the rod points more to the right, you go to the right till the rod is again pointing straight ahead. After that, it might incline more to the left. Follow that direction. In that way you can find also the crossing of two veins.

Increase your sensitivity.

Personally I discovered my capability accidentally. I had seen somebody doing it. I did not believe it. So I took rods and started walking to make it ridiculous. At a certain point felt out of my hands, as I did not keep them properly yet. Foolishly I started walking again but exactly at the same spot the rods felt to the ground. After it happened several times, I became serious. - Now I have dug already wells for my own watersystems and have helped many people to find the right spot. By doing it frequently I increased my sensitivity considerably. As I have taught also many people how to do it, I have experienced that all start is difficult, but by trying again they feel it better.

May this be a small contribution on my part to the succes of the decade of drinking water.

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Otto D. Bosse msc
P.O. Box 26
8400 Surigao City
Philippines