



HCWA Currents



NEWS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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HCWA Sewer Collection System as good as gold

Wastewater collection and conveyance can be an unsightly business. But according to the state's water industry professional association, the sewer system in Henry County is as good as gold.

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) awarded the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) the prestigious 2013 Collection System Gold Award, for obtaining a quantitative score of 95% or higher on its recent industry audit.

The Authority's Matthew Jenkins, who works in the Water/Sewer Operations Maintenance Department, is an example of the type of employee responsible for the Collection System Gold Award. As evidence, Jenkins won this year's GAWP Golden

Wrench Maintenance Technologist Award, which is given to the water industry's best mechanic or maintenance professional in the state of Georgia. Both awards were presented during the GAWP Fall Conference, held on Nov. 12-13, in Athens.

The GAWP Collection System Gold Award is one of the most difficult for a utility to obtain, primarily because of the comprehensive nature of the system audit and review process by industry judges. The judging criteria include a comprehensive review of the Authority's Management, Maintenance, Operations, and Capacity programs.

For the complete story on the Authority's GAWP Fall Conference Awards, check out our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.



Employees from the Henry County Water Authority received the Collection System Gold Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals during the recent Fall Conference in Athens, in addition to Matthew Jenkins (far left) winning the Golden Wrench Award as the water industry's top mechanic in the state.

DNR praises efforts in land management

The first HCWA Youth Goose and Deer Hunts, held Sept. 21 and Oct. 5 at the Authority's Tussahaw Reservoir and Cubihatcha Center, respectively, were a great success in terms of outdoor recreation for families and environmental stewardship for the Authority.

The events were organized by the HCWA in cooperation with the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, a local non-profit, 501 C-3.

Additional sponsors included: Maurice Sporting Goods, Academy Sports + Outdoors, Crumbley Taxidermy, Hillsman's Deer Cooler, and the Southside Sportsman Association. Their contributions helped to cover the costs of the hunts, which were provided free to the 15 youth participating in the Goose Hunt and 14 kids who took part in the Deer Hunt. Participants were selected by a lottery among those registered for the events.

The hunts did not go unnoticed to officials from the Georgia Department of Natural

Resources (DNR).

"This event is not only a great opportunity to get kids outdoors, but it is an example of how large tracts of land are being properly managed by the Authority," says Charlie Killmaster, state deer biologist for Georgia DNR, with eight years of experience in this field.

Killmaster cited the state's Urban Deer Management Plan, which he oversees and helps enforce, as a driving factor for encouraging limited hunting on county or municipal owned properties.

"These sites provide excellent opportunities for public hunts, especially youth hunts," adds Killmaster. "Preserved land like this has controlled access, so under most circumstances there is no reason limited hunting shouldn't be allowed. (Hunts) are great for the public, and they're great for the environment, too."

For the complete story and photo galleries on the Youth Goose and Deer Hunts, check out our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.



As a father and son pairing during the 2013 HCWA Youth Goose Hunt, Shane (right) and Reed Smith enjoy the outdoors inside their duck blind on the banks of the Tussahaw Reservoir.

Tussahaw open for winter fishing

The Tussahaw Reservoir – a 1,466-acre lake with nearly 10 billion gallons of raw water storage capacity – will be open for public fishing this winter on select dates, providing local anglers once again with an extended fishing season at Henry County Water. The weekend dates for winter fishing at the HCWA Tussahaw Reservoir include:

- December 13-15, 2013
- January 10-12, 2014
- February 7-9, 2014

The Tussahaw Reservoir will open on the above dates from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The 2014 regular fishing season at

Henry County Water will reconvene the first weekend in March.

Anglers must have an active HCWA reservoir use permit to fish this winter. Permits are available for \$45 at the Authority's headquarters during normal customer service hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday). Reservoir Use Permits are valid for one full calendar year from the date of purchase.

For more information on public fishing at HCWA reservoirs, anglers can log onto the Authority's Web site at www.hcwsa.com.



Doug Martin, retired naturalist with the HCWA, teaches third graders about public fishing at the Authority's reservoirs during their annual field trips to the Cubihatcha Center.

And don't forget to winterize your home!

Now is the time to winterize your property, to protect your pipes and your pocketbook from leaks or bursts this winter.

According to the UGA Cooperative Extension Service and others, to prevent exposed valves, pipes, or irrigation systems from freezing, consider these tips:

- Insulate your exposed pipes with wraps or tapes.
- Add insulation to your water heater as well.
- Drain your irrigation system completely.
- Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor faucets.
- Shut off the valve and drain the lines on faucets that are not frost free.
- Winterize your AC by draining all air conditioner pipes and hoses.
- Remove window air conditioning units and insulate those areas.
- Clean gutters, so winter rains and melting snow can drain.
- Place your thermostat at 55° when leaving for extended periods.
- Should a pipe burst due to freezing, know how to shut off your main water line.

For more information on winterization tips, log onto our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.

Second Front

HCWA provides Henry County third graders with outdoor education

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) hosted approximately 3,000 Henry County third grade students and teachers for field trips at its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center during a two-week period from Sept. 17 – 27, 2013. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the “Cubihatcha Kids” outdoor education event.

These annual field trips for local elementary school students are organized by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership. The Partnership includes the HCWA, the Henry County Board of Education, the Henry County Board of Commissioners, the UGA Extension Service, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other public and private organizations and volunteers.

The mission of these field trips is to

provide opportunities for experiential or “hands-on” learning for students through approved science curricula, including Project WET activities (see story below), while enhancing their appreciation of natural resources and their interest in science. The “Cubihatcha Kids” explored topics like the ecology of watersheds, characteristics of water (H2Olympics using Project WET), the role of reservoirs, stormwater runoff and pollution (hosted by Henry County Stormwater Management using Project WET), wildlife (including crayfish, owls, and honey bees) and their habitat, outdoor recreation, and more.

Since the inaugural program year in 2003, approximately 30,000 “Cubihatcha Kids” have participated in these annual field trips.

HCWA customers are invited to take advantage of the outdoor amenities of the Cubihatcha Center. For more information,



Odessa Brooks, third grade teacher at Luella Elementary, helps her students determine characteristics about the spotted owl.

including a photo gallery of the 2013 Cubihatcha Kids, log onto our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.

HCWA staff completes Project WET training

Featured within this fall’s field trips by Henry County third graders to the HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center were activities from the most widely accepted water industry public education curriculum – Project WET, or Water Education for Teachers.

Three employees from the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) took part in the recent Project WET workshop hosted by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. The Project WET workshop attended by the Authority’s Mimi Reynolds, Denise Ballard, and Tara Brown, covered a number of diverse water topics, such as the importance of watersheds, water quality, water conservation, and more.

By obtaining Project WET training, HCWA employees now are better equipped to advance goals in public education locally, which include informing more than 50,000 customers and their children about water industry issues and topics that impact them daily. The mission of Project WET worldwide is to reach children, parents, teachers, and community leaders with water education.

With this recent class of Project WET graduates added to the ranks, the HCWA now has 13 water professionals who are trained to teach this curriculum.

For more information about Project WET and how you can get involved in water education, log onto www.projectwet.org.



(Seated, left to right) Henry County Water Authority employees Tara Brown, Denise Ballard, and Mimi Reynolds, listen to instructions provided by Project WET facilitator Jennifer McCoy (standing) during a recent training workshop at the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

Help us keep Georgia Rivers Alive

Joining fellow water professionals from across metro Atlanta and North Georgia, employees from the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) took part in the 2013 Rivers Alive annual cleanup organized by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) public education committee during Clean Water Month in October.

The GAWP Rivers Alive event was held just a few miles from the Association’s headquarters in Marietta and targeted nearly a mile of stream bank along Rottenwood Creek near Aviation Park. The volunteers cleaned up trash and debris, in addition to shopping carts, automobile tires, and other solid waste.

Rivers Alive is Georgia’s annual volunteer water cleanup event, which targets all waterways in the state, including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands. The mission of Rivers Alive is “to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia’s water resources.”

For more information on Georgia Rivers Alive, citizens can log onto the state’s Web site at www.riversalive.org. Those potential volunteers or sponsors interested in assisting with the next river cleanup in Henry County can contact the Authority’s Tara Brown at tara.brown@hcwsa.com.



Henry County Water Authority employees Brock Briles (left) and Jeremy Newell (right) remove a shopping cart from a stream during the 2013 Rivers Alive cleanup organized by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

*From all of us at Henry County Water,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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