



HCWA Currents



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

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HCWA takes center stage during industry's Annual Conference

Several employees of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) took center stage during the Annual Conference & Expo of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) in Savannah. Whether receiving awards for outstanding performance or leading sessions in areas of technical expertise, the Authority's water professionals were recognized among the best within the water and sewer industry in Georgia.

HCWA Water Production Manager Eric Osborne received the coveted Elizabeth McEntire Award, recognizing him for excellent achievement in the direct operations of water supply, water treatment, and/or water distribution systems. The Elizabeth McEntire Award is presented to a member of GAWP who has excelled in the



Eric Osborne (right) accepts the GAWP Award for the Best Tasting Drinking Water in Georgia on behalf of the HCWA earlier this year.

operation of a public water system in the state of Georgia.

Also during the Annual Conference, the Authority's Tamara Smith and Tara Brown were recognized as graduates of the GAWP Leadership Academy. Brown also was a speaker during the technical session on Wastewater Collection Systems.

Other speakers for technical sessions during the GAWP Annual Conference included Patrick Kelley and Cody Kelly on the topics of Water Modeling and Evaluation of Distribution Systems, respectively. The HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center's Ken Pressley and Maranda Stonica also were featured on a Public Education panel discussion about outdoor recreation.

Water professionals hosting Georgia's Model Water Tower Competition

Water professionals from the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) will be assisting with one of the four regional events of this year's Georgia Model Water Tower Competition.

HCWA employees will be judging entries and providing technical expertise to students at the event being held at Woodland Middle School on Friday Oct. 23.

The Georgia Model Water Tower competition is designed to provide



The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition challenges students to create a functioning water tower from household items.

information to youth about water resource engineering, infrastructure, water treatment and water conservation, in hopes that some will become future water professionals. The event is co-sponsored by the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA) and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP).

The Competition is open each year to middle school students, providing them with an opportunity to learn about the water profession through an enjoyable yet challenging hands-on science project. Each student or team must construct a functioning water tower from household materials. They are judged on their tower's structural and hydraulic efficiency, as well as design ingenuity, and they must complete an interview with a panel of judges to further explain their work.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition addresses all four components of STEM curricula – science, technology, engineering, and math – recommended by policy makers and public school administrators.

Come help us keep our local Rivers Alive on Nov. 7!

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) will be teaming up with the Henry County Department of Storm Water Management to host a local river cleanup during this year's statewide Rivers Alive campaign.

The Henry County Rivers Alive event will be held Saturday Nov. 7, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to



help clean a stretch of Tussahaw Creek that empties into the HCWA Tussahaw Reservoir, which serves as a primary source for drinking water for HCWA

customers. The first 50 volunteers will receive a free Rivers Alive t-shirt.

Rivers Alive is Georgia's annual volunteer waterway cleanup event targeting rivers, streams, lakes, beaches, and wetlands within the state.

The mission of Rivers Alive, which is a Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Outreach Program, is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's water resources.

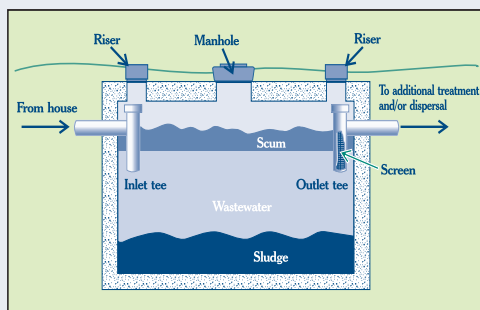
For more information on Henry County's Rivers Alive event, contact the Authority's Tara Brown at 678-583-3810 or tara.brown@hcwa.com.

Help protect our natural resources through proper septic tank maintenance

If you are a Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) customer who is not also a sewer customer, you are among the majority of property owners who have a septic tank. You can help protect our natural resources, especially the quality of our drinking water supply, by properly maintaining and managing your septic tank system.

The regulatory oversight for household septic tanks is provided locally by the Henry County Health Department. However, the HCWA has an interest in the public's proper septic tank maintenance too, because runoff from failing septic tanks can potentially contaminate our drinking water supply.

A septic tank is a water tight box made of concrete, fiberglass or plastic, whose primary purpose is to separate solids (waste) from liquids



to promote the particle breakdown of the solids by microorganisms naturally present in the wastewater.

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain, repair, or replace all components of the

septic system, so that it will protect the environment and public health. The HCWA and Henry County Health Department recommend that property owners with septic tanks have their tanks pumped and systems inspected every 3 to 5 years by a licensed septic tank contractor. The Health Department has a list of qualified contractors in the area for property owners to reference.

The HCWA also has tips and educational materials available to help residents locate and maintain their septic tank systems, as well as how to avoid system maintenance trouble. For more information, contact Tara Brown at 678-583-3810 or tara.brown@hcwa.com.

If you have questions about your septic tank system and how to manage it, contact the Henry County Health Department, located at 135 Henry Parkway in McDonough, at 770-954-2250.

Second Front

Henry County Outdoor Education thriving at Cubihatcha



HCWA Naturalist Zeb Brown lets Henry County third grade students sample honey, or bee vomit, during their annual field trips this fall to the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

The Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center, which the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) opened for public use in 2003, is hosting field trips for approximately 3,120 third graders from Henry County Schools, thanks to contributions, resources and volunteers provided by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

The field trips for these "Cubihatcha Kids" began the week of Sept. 14 and continued through the first week in October. Students enjoyed topics that included the ecology of watersheds, characteristics of water, the impact of storm water, the importance of protecting natural resources, plant and animal habitats, bee apiaries, solar panels, forest fires, wildlife of the area, and much more.

The Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, which was formed in 2001 and obtained its 501 (c) (3) non-profit status six years later, consists of the HCWA, the Henry County Board of Education, the Henry County Board of Commissioners, and other local and state agencies and organizations.

Volunteer instructors for this year's third grade field trips to Cubihatcha include professionals from the HCWA, the Board of Education, Henry County Storm Water, Henry County 4-H, Central Georgia EMC, Snapping Shoals EMC, the Georgia Forestry Commission, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia Farm Bureau.

For photos and highlights of this year's "Cubihatcha Kids," check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

**It's a Toilet,
Not a Trashcan!**

Please do not flush:

- Paper Towels
- Wet Wipes
- Cotton Swabs
- Cat Litter
- Facial Tissues
- Rags/Cloths
- Dental Floss
- Tampons



Hunting Season a Successful Sellout

Entering its third year of providing customers with an opportunity to hunt on the utility's property, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) received an overwhelmingly positive response when available spots for all six hunts this season filled shortly after the schedule was announced this summer. Participants are selected via a blind draw among applicants each year.

The Authority's Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center staff organizes the hunts with assistance from fellow HCWA employees from Land Management and Wastewater Operations. Authority properties where the public hunts are held include protected green space at the reservoirs and at land application system (LAS) sites, where treated wastewater is used for irrigation.

Hunters have noted the convenience of hunting locally under these pristine conditions, in addition to the outstanding service provided by Authority employees and event sponsors. Mandatory safety and orientation sessions are held prior to each hunt.

The first HCWA hunt this year - a youth dove hunt - was held on opening day of Dove Season (Sept. 5). This year's schedule also included two youth deer hunts in October, an adult deer hunt in November, and two waterfowl fundraisers in late November and January.

For more information on future hunts at HCWA properties, in addition to other outdoor education and recreation opportunities, customers can contact the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930, log onto our website at www.hcwa.com, or come visit us at 100 Collins Drive in Locust Grove.



The Henry County Water Authority hosted public hunting on the utility's property for the third consecutive year in 2015, as six events filled shortly after the schedule was announced this summer.

Fishing Season extends through winter

While the regular fishing season at HCWA reservoirs concludes the last week in November, fishing opportunities will continue this winter on a limited basis.

Until the end of November, two of the Authority's five reservoirs will be open Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. until approximately 7:00 p.m. or one hour prior to sunset. Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday Nov. 1.

Winter fishing will be offered the weekends of December 11-13; January 15-17; and February 12-14, followed by the opening of the 2016 regular fishing season on March 2.

Public fishing is available to HCWA customers, Henry County property owners and residents with the purchase of a reservoir use permit. This \$45 permit allows anglers to access the select reservoirs for fishing from the banks or from boats powered by electric/trolling motors; permits also provide access to the reservoirs for canoeing and kayaking.

HCWA Reservoir Use Permits can be purchased at the Authority's headquarters located at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough, during the normal office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Permits are valid for one full calendar year from the date of purchase.

For more information on outdoor recreation at the HCWA, contact the Authority staff at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center at 678-583-3930, or log onto our website at www.hcwa.com.



Select reservoirs will remain open for public fishing this winter on a limited basis during the months of December, January and February.

Cubihatcha trails ready for you to trek

The HCWA Cubihatcha Center is an ideal site for individuals and groups to enjoy the outdoors. The Cubihatcha nature trails, which are a popular destination for hikers and runners, are open seasonally, including every other Saturday during the summer. Normal operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information on the Cubihatcha Center, contact our staff at 678-583-3930.

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