



HCWA Currents



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

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3 ♦ FALL / YEAREND 2017

2017 An Award-Winning Year at HCWA

As 2017 comes to a close, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) can celebrate the New Year with the assurance that it is among the very best water and sewer utilities in the state of Georgia.

The evidence of HCWA success this past year comes in the form of industry awards the Authority received during the Annual Conference and yearend



Award winners from the HCWA gathered for a group photo during the Fall Conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

Fall Conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP).

As a premier utility providing both water and sewer services, the HCWA received the GAWP Collection System Platinum Award, for scoring 95% or higher on its annual sewer system performance review for five or more consecutive years, as well as the GAWP Distribution System Gold Award, for scoring 95% or higher on its water system annual review this past year.

In addition, the HCWA received the GAWP Quality Assurance Award for its Water Quality Laboratory, which also propelled the Authority to the GAWP Consumer Confidence Report Award this past year. The Authority's Cody Kelly was recognized by GAWP as the Top Maintenance Technician in the state of Georgia, while Tom Peters received the 2017 Customer Service Award.

This past summer, at the GAWP Annual Conference, HCWA General Manager Lindy Farmer

was inducted as a Life Member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), while the Authority's Eric Osborne received the AWWA's William J. Greene Award for outstanding service, in addition to being welcomed as a GAWP Life Member.



Eric Osborne (center), HCWA Water Production Manager, receives the William J. Greene, Jr. Award from the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association, in addition to being inducted as a Life Member of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

Volunteers remove over 1 ton of trash during Rivers Alive

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) knows the importance of keeping watersheds clean to protect drinking water resources.

As evidence, the HCWA partnered with the Henry County Stormwater Department to host the 2017 Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup on Saturday Oct. 21, which resulted in more than 1 ton of trash and debris being removed from a local watershed.



Some of the nearly 30 volunteers for the 2017 Henry County Rivers Alive gather following the annual cleanup that removed more than 1 ton of trash and debris from a local watershed.

Approximately 30 volunteers gathered at the cleanup site located off Leguin Mill Road at the intersection of Tussahaw Creek in Locust Grove.

"This year's Rivers Alive was a great success, and it was great to see volunteers willing to help us protect our water supply," says Tara Brown, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, who organized this year's event.



This year's Rivers Alive was a great success, and it was great to see volunteers willing to help us protect our water supply.

Tara Brown,
HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Rivers Alive is an Outreach Program of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Statewide Rivers Alive cleanups target local creeks, 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.

A photo gallery from the 2017 Henry County Rivers Alive is available on our website at www.hcwa.com.



Javier Sayago, with the Henry County Stormwater Department, removes old tires from a protected watershed near Tussahaw Creek.

HCWA Customer Generosity Evident Through Charitable Assistance

UP
ROUND

This year marks the third anniversary of the Charitable Assistance Program (CAP), which was a program initiated by District 5 Board Member Carlotta Harrell to provide an opportunity for generous HCWA customers to help fellow customers in need.

CAP funds provide qualifying customers, who have experienced financial hardship, with assistance in the payment of their monthly water bill.

For those HCWA customers who choose to participate in the program, their monthly water bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar, with that extra money going into a CAP fund for disbursement. Samaritans Together of Henry County, Inc. is partnering with the HCWA to administer the program on the Authority's behalf. Neither the HCWA nor Samaritans Together charge any administrative fees for this program, so 100% of the donations go directly to financial assistance. To date, customers have contributed more than \$25,000.

For more information, or to download a registration form, log onto our website at www.hcwa.com.

It's Time to Winterize Those Water Lines

Now is the time for HCWA customers to weatherize their homes, to prevent potential water leaks or pipe bursts this winter.

Consider winterizing your water lines, exposed pipes, valves, and irrigation systems, to prevent them from freezing:

For more information on weatherization and a list of related winterization tips, contact the HCWA at 770-957-6659, or log onto our Website at www.hcwa.com.



Second Front

HCWA hosts Georgia Model Water Tower Competition at Tussahaw Plant

The HCWA hosted the annual Georgia Model Water Tower Competition among middle school students from Henry County Public Schools on Nov. 17, at the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant. This was one of seven regional competitions, joining events in Augusta, Carrollton, Cobb County, Griffin, Fayette County and Fulton County.

Participants in the 2017 Henry County – Georgia Model Water Tower Competition included students from Ola, Woodland, Austin Road, and Locust Grove Middle Schools. The winners from this year’s event were:

- ❖ **1st Place** – Charlotte Smith, Sixth Grader from Ola Middle School.
- ❖ **2nd Place** – The House Towers Team of Zoe Castellucci, Mason Rice, and Amelia Atkins, Sixth Graders from Ola Middle School.
- ❖ **3rd Place** – The KB Paris Team of Kimberly Nevarez and Brooklynn Coleman, Seventh Graders



Charlotte Smith (center), a 6th Grade Student at Ola Middle School, won the 2017 Georgia Model Water Tower Competition in Henry County. Tara Brown (left), HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, and Scott Sage (right), HCWA Division Manager, presented Charlotte with her first-place check, provided by the GAWP and GAWWA.

- at Austin Road Middle School.
- ❖ **Best Engineering Design** – Anna Stokes, Sixth Grader from Austin Road Middle School.
- ❖ **Best Artistic Design** – The House Towers, who also won 2nd Place overall.
- ❖ **Best Presentation/Judge’s Award** – Landen Moss, Eighth Grader from Locust Grove Middle School.

These Middle School students were challenged with designing and building model water towers with specific size and height requirements. Their towers were judged according to three criteria – structural efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, and design ingenuity. The event is ideal for teaching students STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curricula through this “hands-on” science project.

Photo galleries from the 2017 Georgia Model Water Tower Competition in Henry County are available on our website at www.hcwa.com.

Opportunities for Outdoor Recreation

Hunting season coming to a close

The 2017-18 Hunting Season at the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) is coming to a close, with four very successful fall hunts and a fundraiser hunt highlighting the schedule of events.

A number of lucky adults and youth, after being selected through a blind draw of those registered, received an opportunity to hunt HCWA property for dove and deer. An addition to this year’s hunting season was a Veterans Deer Hunt, where current and former military personnel enjoyed the event held in their honor during Veterans Day Weekend.

The HCWA hosts these limited public hunts as a part of its regulated land management practices, which include conservation of natural resources and preservation of wildlife habitat.



The HCWA hosted another successful Hunting Season, evident in the feedback received from those taking part in the Youth Deer Hunt on Oct. 14 (pictured) and similar events during the fall.

Public fishing extends through Winter

While the 2017 HCWA Fishing Season comes to a close at the end of November each year, the Authority offers limited opportunities for fishing during the winter months as well.

The 2017-18 Winter Fishing dates at the HCWA include the weekends (Fridays to Sundays) of Dec. 8 – 10, 2017; Jan. 19 – 21, 2018; and Feb. 16-18, 2018. The Authority will open its Tussahaw Reservoir for fishing, as well as canoeing and kayaking, from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on these select dates.



The HCWA Fishing Season extends through three select weekends this winter, before resuming in full the first weekend in March.

The 2018 Regular Fishing Season will resume the first weekend in March. Reservoir Use Permits, which are available at the HCWA headquarters and valid for one calendar year from the date of purchase, are required to access the reservoirs.

For more information, check out our website at www.hcwa.com or contact the HCWA Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930.

Cubihatcha Kids Enjoy Annual Field Trips

The HCWA hosted approximately 3,000 Henry County 3rd grade students and 135 teachers for field trips at its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center during a two-week period in September.

This year marked the 14th Annual “Cubihatcha Kids” field trips, which include activities featuring experiential or “hands-on” learning of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curricula in an outdoor classroom setting. To date, more than 40,000 “Cubihatcha Kids” have participated in these field trips.

This annual event is organized by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, which features the HCWA, Henry County Board of Education, and Henry County Board of Commissioners. Faculty included volunteers from these partners as well as individuals from Henry County Stormwater Management, Georgia/Henry County 4-H, the Georgia Farm Bureau, and others.

The “Cubihatcha Kids” spent their allotted day at the Center participating in classes such as: The Water Cycle, Project WET, Stormwater Pollution, Crayfish Anatomy and Wildlife Habitat, Watersheds, Physical Education and Nutrition, Water Striders, H2Olympics, Farming, and more.

For the complete feature and photo gallery from this year’s “Cubihatcha Kids” field trips, log onto our website at www.hcwa.com.



The Georgia Farm Bureau’s Jean Dykes shows Henry County 3rd Graders (Cubihatcha Kids) an example of products made possible thanks to corn grown by local farmers.



HCWA Naturalist Zeb Brown (far right) teaches Henry County 3rd Graders (Cubihatcha Kids) about wildlife habitat during their annual field trips to the HCWA Cubihatcha Center.

The HCWA wishes you a healthy and Happy New Year!

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter
Harold Jenkins
Carlotta Harrell
Warren Holder
Roslyn Williams

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary/Treasurer
Member
Member

Lindy D. Farmer, Jr.
General Manager

Kimberly Turner
Osborne
Clerk

Henry County Water Authority
1695 Highway 20 West ■ McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-6659 ■ www.hcwa.com