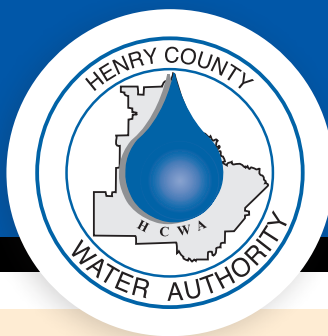


# HCWA CURRENTS

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

Edición en español disponible  
en línea en [hcwa.com](http://hcwa.com)

### INAUGURAL CITIZEN ACADEMY A SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS!

The HCWA hosted a unique type of summer school in June, as the Authority's first Citizen Academy provided 13 individuals a crash course in the water industry and an up-close look at their water utility.

The 2022 HCWA Citizen Academy participants took part in three classes covering topics that included an introduction to the HCWA water and wastewater systems, as well as insights about the HCWA administration, budget, field operations, capital projects, and more. Each weekly class was followed by a VIP tour of a facility on the weekend – the Tussahaw Water Plant, Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility, and the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center and adjacent Long Branch Reservoir. In addition, the Citizen Academy participants learned valuable lessons in water conservation, proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG), watershed protection, environmental stewardship, and additional topics in water/wastewater public education.

For the complete feature on this year's HCWA Citizen Academy, including photo galleries from the event, please visit the HCWA website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).

And for those interested in participating in next year's Citizen Academy, contact organizer Lindsey Sanders at [lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com](mailto:lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com).



The 2022 graduates of the inaugural HCWA Citizen Academy included (back row, left to right): Kendall Newson, Jacob Shea, Devlin Cleveland, Darryl Owens, and Del Baxter, in addition to (front row, left to right) Christopher Toussant, Christy Bivins, Citizens Academy Organizer and Instructor Lindsey Sanders, Francis Alomia, Sanna Owens, Sylvia Woods, and Cassie Carmichael. Not pictured: Vincent Pirone and Brian Anthony.

HCWA  
Cubihatcha  
Center Naturalist  
Jeff Scott  
(standing)  
leads a "floating  
classroom"  
boat tour of the  
Long Branch  
Reservoir for  
Citizen Academy  
participants.



Raymond Johnson casts his line during the 2022 HCWA Kids Fishing Derby, held recently at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center and Long Branch Reservoir in Locust Grove.



Hailey Adams (left) receives her prizes, from Del Delnevo (right) of Paul Davis Restoration, for winning the Biggest Catch of the Day during the annual HCWA Kids Fishing Derby.

### MORE THAN 200 KIDS ENJOY ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

The HCWA hosted its annual Kids Fishing Derby recently at the Long Branch Reservoir, located adjacent to its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center in Locust Grove. Children and youth 18 years of age and younger were invited to attend this free event, which brought out 226 participants and 290 total attendees to enjoy a day of food, fellowship, fishing and fun.

Prizes were awarded to Tamara Camell for the First Catch to kick off the competition, which saw Hailey Adams reel in the Biggest Catch of the Day.

While the Cubihatcha Center hosted the event, additional sponsors included the 'We Need 2 Read' Program (Greg Street), former NFL player and pro angler Kendall Newson, Academy Sports of McDonough, Dicks Sporting Goods of McDonough, Chick-fil-A of Locust Grove, as well as Paul Davis Restoration, who provided prizes for the winners.

For more information on public fishing at HCWA reservoirs, as well as a photo gallery from this year's Kids Fishing Derby, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).

### CAREERS AVAILABLE IN THE WATER PROFESSION

The HCWA needs water and wastewater plant operators to fill job openings created by an increasing number of retirees leaving the profession. Thus, we have partnered with Southern Crescent Technical College to create the Water Quality Technician Certification Program to recruit and train the next generation of water professionals.

The four required courses of the Program are being taught at SCTC under the direction of retired HCWA Top Operator Sheila Kern. The courses rotate each semester, with the 2023 class schedule as follows:

- Spring '23 Semester – 16 weeks from Mid-January to Mid-May, with the Water Treatment and OSHA courses being offered.
- Summer '23 Semester – 10 weeks, beginning next August, with the Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply courses being offered.

After completing these required courses, you must pass the state exam and get some on-the-job training, and then you're all set to begin a well-paid career as a water professional!

For more information on the Water Quality Technician Certification Program, please contact Sheila Kern at 770-914-4431 or [sheila.kern@sctech.edu](mailto:sheila.kern@sctech.edu).

### WATER QUALITY REPORT SHOWS HCWA TAP WATER IS CLEAN, SAFE

Want to know what's in your drinking water and why?

The HCWA's 2022 Water Quality Report, which is also referred to as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), has been published and is available for review on our website. The Report's results reveal that the HCWA is in complete compliance with all regulatory requirements for drinking water safety. The Authority had no violations of the industry's drinking water quality standards this past year.

The lab data in the 2022 Henry County Water Quality Report include measures of regulated substances found at the source, during drinking water production at both of the Authority's water treatment plants, and within the HCWA distribution system. Those laboratory results presented in this year's Report are from tests conducted from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021.

You can check out the 2022 Henry County Water Quality Report on our website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>.





HCWA FACILITIES, STAFF APPLAUDED FOR PERFORMANCE

The HCWA wrapped up the spring and summer conference season with several industry awards and honors for its facilities and staff. The Authority brought home the following Georgia Association of Water Professional (GAWP) Accolades (so far) this year:

- Best Operated Water Plant of the Year Certificate of Achievement for both the Tussahaw and Towaliga Water Treatment Plants.
- Platinum Awards for 100% permit compliance for 20 consecutive years at both the Tussahaw and Towaliga Water Treatment Plants.
- Gold Award for 100% permit compliance this past year at the Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility.
- Gold Award for 100% permit compliance this past year at the Bear Creek LAS (land application system) Facility.
- Public Education Program of Excellence and New Media Award.
- Golden Hydrant Society Induction for HCWA Operator Sheila Kern.
- 5S Induction for HCWA Manager of Sewer Line Maintenance Tara Brown.
- HCWA Graduates of the GAWP Leadership Academy – James Estes, Cliff Hardin, and Jeremy Sledge.

For more information on industry awards and accolades that reflect our dedication to service and professionalism on your behalf, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



(L to R):  
Representing  
the HCWA  
at the Spring  
Conference  
Awards Program  
were Scott Sage,  
Ken Presley,  
Lindsey Sanders,  
Sheila Kern, and  
General Manager  
Tony Carnell.

THE CUBIHATCHA KIDS ARE COMING!

The HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center will be hosting its annual field trips for all third-grade students from Henry County Schools during the weeks of Sept. 12-16, and Sept. 26-30, 2022.

The “Cubihatcha Kids” will be visiting the Center to experience various types of STEM classes (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and learning activities.

Volunteers are needed to help with instruction or to assist with teaching a learning activity, and sponsors are needed to provide monetary donations, supplies, materials, lunches, or other items that will help these 3,000-plus students have a great outdoor education experience.

For more information on the annual Cubihatcha Kids field trips, please contact HCWA Naturalist Maranda Stonica at [maranda.stonica@hcwa.com](mailto:maranda.stonica@hcwa.com).

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE “KIDS CORNER” ON OUR WEBSITE

Learning about water conservation and how to protect our natural resources and environment is great for kids of all ages. Please check out our “Kids Corner” within the Community & Education section of our website at [www.hcwa.com/community-education/kids-corner.cms](http://www.hcwa.com/community-education/kids-corner.cms) for activities that help teach kids the importance of preserving and protecting our drinking water resources and water quality.

Students from Strong Rock Christian School enjoy an Earth Day Field Trip to the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center this Spring, completing classes and learning activities like those that will be held this fall for the Cubihatcha Kids.



HELPING YOU AVOID “IRRITATION FROM IRRIGATION”

New Homeowners should check your irrigation settings

While irrigation systems can help with the efficiency of your outdoor watering, if they are not set properly, they can run up your water bill.

Some new Henry County homeowners have been getting higher than expected HCWA water bills during their first few months at their residence, due to not being aware that their home builder may not have turned off the irrigation system after the sale.

New homeowners are encouraged to learn about the proper use of their irrigation system and its settings. If you have irrigation, please check to see if the system is on or off and review the controller programming (watering schedule) to verify run times.

The U.S. EPA has a great reference for homeowners with irrigation systems – check out <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/sprinkler-spruce-up#Brochure>.



Tiered rate structure encourages conservation

Our water and sewer volumetric rates have a tiered structure to offer customers a financial incentive to conserve water.

The first tier of our volumetric rate has a minimum charge for consumption less than 6,000 gallons/month, with an increase when consumption is between 6,000 and 10,000 gallons, and a maximum charge for consumption that exceeds 10,000 gallons.

Water Efficiency Kits Available at HQ

In addition to properly managing your irrigation system and keeping consumption within the lower tiers of our rate structure, you can conserve water and save money on your monthly HCWA bill by picking up a free water efficiency kit (while supplies last) at our Customer Service office within the Authority Headquarters located at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough.

FALL EVENTS HIGHLIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Rivers Alive

The annual Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup will be held on Tuesday Oct. 4, 2022. The location has yet to be selected, but the community is welcome to join us in efforts to protect our natural resources, including our water supply. The HCWA will be partnering with Henry County Stormwater Management again this year to host Rivers Alive.



For more information, please contact Lindsey Sanders, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at 678-583-3809 or [lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com](mailto:lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com).



Hunting Season Features Youth Hunts and a Veteran’s Hunt

The HCWA will be hosting three public hunts again this year at its Walnut Creek LAS property on River Road in McDonough. Two Youth Hunts will be held on the Saturdays of Oct. 22 and Nov. 5, 2022, followed by a Veteran’s Hunt on Saturday Nov. 19, 2022.

The Youth hunts are open to Henry County residents from ages 10 to 17, while the Veteran’s Hunt is open to military veterans who are honorably discharged, active duty, or a reservist.

Applications for these hunts are being accepted until Friday Sept. 16, and participants will be selected via a blind draw among all applications.

For more information, and to download an application and instructions on entering the lottery for selection, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).