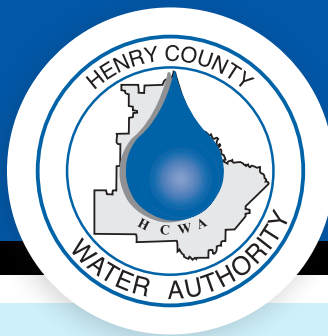


# HCWA CURRENTS

Volume 23, Issue 2  
Spring 2023



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

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

### HCWA CELEBRATES WORLD WATER DAY WITH CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

The HCWA hosted a customer appreciation giveaway to celebrate World Water Day on Wednesday March 22, 2023. The Authority staff gave away free reusable HCWA water bottles and t-shirts to customers visiting the Customer Service Lobby and Drive Thru Window at the utility's headquarters that day.

The free water bottles included valuable water conservation and pollution prevention information inside, while the t-shirts promoted the event's key message – "Be the change you'd like to see in the world."

Some ways for YOU to facilitate positive change in the spirit of World Water Day:

- **Conserve Water** – by taking shorter showers or by not letting the tap run when brushing teeth, washing dishes, or preparing food.
- **Fix Household Leaks** – as noted during *Fix-A-Leak Week (held March 20-26)*, which encourages customers to continually find and fix household water leaks.
- **Don't Pollute** – by not placing food waste, oils, grease, medicines, wipes, chemicals, or other non-dispersible items in the toilet or drain.
- **Protect Nature** – by planting a tree, creating a rain garden, or using natural solutions to address environmental concerns, such as reducing the risk and impact of flooding.
- **Participate in a Clean Up** – such as Henry County Rivers Alive, which is scheduled for Thursday Oct. 5, 2023.
- **Learn More** – about treatment processes by touring our water or wastewater plants.

For more information on how you can help conserve water and protect our natural resources, contact Lindsey Sanders at 678-583-3809 or [lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com](mailto:lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com), or visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



Jennifer Matos, HCWA Customer Service Representative, distributes HCWA water bottles and t-shirts during the Authority's Customer Appreciation in celebration of World Water Day.

### CHECK FOR WATER LEAKS TO SAVE WATER AND MONEY

With the recent recognition of national Fix A Leak Week in March, the HCWA reminds you to check for household leaks, especially if you have an irrigation system.

#### Here are some steps that can help:

1. Locate your water meter in the Meter Box located near the curb of your home.
2. Write down the number or reading on your meter.
3. Set a timer (15 minutes is good) and make sure there is no water running in the house.
4. After that time has passed, recheck the reading on your meter. If that number has changed, you have a household leak.

With the arrival of spring and summer, check to make sure leaks are not in your irrigation system, which can be damaged from pipes that may have been frozen during the winter. To determine if a leak is in your sprinkler system, investigate a little further:

5. Turn off the valve to your sprinkler system and note the meter reading again.
6. Set another timer and recheck the meter after that time has passed.
7. If the meter stops moving, or the reading is the same, the leak is in your irrigation system.
8. Turn the valve to your sprinkler system back on and set one zone to water.
9. Walk around that zone to see if you see any wet spots or pools of water, or perhaps water bubbling up from the ground.
10. Check to see if the sprinkler heads are working properly, or if heads are broken.
11. Repeat this process (steps 8-10) for each zone of your irrigation system.
12. Contact a Certified Irrigation Contractor to fix any leaks you locate.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com), including our video on how to locate your meter and check for leaks at <https://vimeo.com/563724325>.



### HCWA AND SCTC PROVIDING INTERNSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The HCWA and Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) have expanded their partnership to offer a Summer Institute Internship Program for local high school students.

Rising High School Juniors and Seniors can participate in the paid internship program in the fields of Industrial Systems Technology and Horticulture. The HCWA-SCTC Internship Program begins this Summer, as select SCTC courses run concurrently with the internships. The number of internships is limited, with competitive pay offered at \$14 per hour.

The inaugural internships, which complement the respective courses at SCTC, are being offered from May 24 to July 18, 2023. In addition, students will be assigned an HCWA employee mentor during their internship as well. Course financial aid is available through SCTC to participating students, who must be at least 16 years old to participate.

For more information, students can contact Drew Todd at Southern Crescent Technical College at [Drew.Todd@sctech.edu](mailto:Drew.Todd@sctech.edu).



Robert Sims and Josh Dominey pull pumps at the Upper Walnut Creek Pump Station during preventive maintenance. This type of work will be featured during the summer internships being offered by the Authority and SCTC.

### PLEASE HELP US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FOG – NO FATS, OILS OR GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN!

Did you know that approximately half of sewer spills and overflows are caused by fats, oils, and grease (FOG)?

When fats, oils, and grease are poured down the drain, they can clog your home's plumbing and damage our sewer system, where grease can harden and clog sewer lines. The last thing you want is to have sewer back up into your home!

Please help protect our infrastructure, the environment, and your home's plumbing by not pouring fats, oils, or grease down your drain. Instead, let cooking grease cool, pour it into a sealed container, and throw it in the trash. Please also wipe plates and dishes clean before washing in the sink or dishwasher.

We also ask our customers to be careful about what you flush down the toilet. Just because something goes down the toilet, doesn't mean it will break down in the sewer system. Please do not flush non-dispersible items such as facial tissues, rags, cleaning cloths, cotton swabs, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, cat litter, or wet wipes – even those that say "flushable." Remember, the toilet is not a trash can.

For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/keep-fats-oils-and-grease-out-of-the-drain.cms>.





KIDS FISHING DAY SET FOR JUNE 10 AT THE CUBIHATCHA CENTER

The Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center, and the HCWA are teaming up to host the second annual Cubihatcha Kids Fishing Day on Saturday, June 10, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center in Locust Grove.

The goal of the Kids Fishing Day is to engage our youth in the outdoors, while promoting physical wellness, social skills, and emotional benefits. Children ranging in ages from 3 to 17 are invited to enjoy a day of outdoor education and fishing, which also will feature prizes, music, food, and fellowship for local families.



The Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership is a 501c-3 non-profit formed by the HCWA and Henry County Board of Education to promote outdoor education and activities for Henry County residents by hosting annual field trips for “Cubihatcha Kids” – all 3rd grade students in Henry County Schools.

For more information, including opportunities for sponsorship and volunteers, please contact us at 678-583-3930, or [communityevents@hcwa.com](mailto:communityevents@hcwa.com). You can also visit the Cubihatcha Facebook Page and our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com) for updates. We hope to see you there!

SECOND ANNUAL HCWA CITIZEN ACADEMY COMING AS WELL!

The second annual HCWA Citizen Academy will be held on select dates in May and June this summer, featuring classroom lessons and field trips to HCWA facilities. The goal of the HCWA Citizen Academy is for local citizens to learn where their water comes from, how the Authority operates, and why it's important for them to become advocates for water conservation and stewardship.

For more information on the HCWA Citizen Academy, as well as other opportunities for public involvement, please contact Lindsey Sanders, HCWA Communications and Regulatory Coordinator, at [lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com](mailto:lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com).

HCWA WELCOMES YOUTH LEADERSHIP HENRY TO CUBIHATCHA

The HCWA staff at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center welcomed approximately 40 students in this year's Youth Leadership Henry Class recently for a tour of the nature preserve and an education on the operations of the water and sewer system in their community.

The Youth Leadership Henry class visit began with a presentation on the importance of becoming a water advocate, which includes ways in which these students can protect the environment, its local natural resources, and practice wise water use and conservation.

The students also learned about the wildlife of the area, while also taking a tour of the facility both by boat and a hayride. The day's activities concluded with fishing at the adjacent Long Branch Reservoir.

The Cubihatcha Center has become an annual stop for this group of future community leaders. Youth Leadership Henry is a leadership program for high school sophomores, sponsored by the Henry County Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of Youth Leadership Henry is to identify emerging leaders, bring them together in an atmosphere conducive to the free exchange of ideas, and provide them with an enlightening educational experience.



HCWA Naturalists Lorenzo Bennett (driving) and Adam Waits (standing) lead Youth Leadership Henry students on a tour of the HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center in Locust Grove.

HCWA HOSTS EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES AT CUBIHATCHA CENTER

To celebrate Earth Day on Saturday April 22, the HCWA and Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center staff, their families, and volunteers held a workday at the nature preserve.

The HCWA Earth Day activities at the Cubihatcha Center included:

- A Trail Cleanup – Visitors to the Cubihatcha Center enjoy several walking trails around the nature preserve; however, because of the tornado that hit the property earlier this year, staff and volunteers cleared limbs, debris, and trash around the property.
- Preparing the Community Garden – The Cubihatcha staff and volunteers also prepared the Center's Community Garden for the upcoming planting season. Cubihatcha has one of several community gardens in Henry County.
- Planting Flowers and Preparing Bee Boxes – Finally, HCWA employees and volunteers planted flowers around the sign at the entrance of the Cubihatcha Center to welcome guests to the property, while also preparing pollinators to support a healthy bee population.

Earth Day is a national celebration annually on April 22, to recognize the importance of the environment and its protection, while preserving natural resources for future generations. This year marks the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day.



HCWA Naturalist Jeffrey Scott helps Marcus Sasfras and Chrisette Wilson plant flowers at the Cubihatcha entrance.



Harper Johnson (left), K – 2nd grade winner, with teacher Angie Sorby, from Locust Grove Elementary School.



Brooklynn Mevissen (right), 6th – 8th grade winner, with teacher Darsha Jackson, from Locust Grove Middle School.

HCWA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST

Students illustrated their thoughts on, “Why do you love water?”

The HCWA recently recognized the winners of its annual Art Contest for Henry County students, grades K-12, who drew illustrations reflecting the topic: “Why do you love water?”

Approximately 200 Henry County public, private, and home-schooled students took part in this year's event, which was intended to educate them on the many daily uses of water and why it's important to protect this natural resource.

The 11 x 17 posters were judged on creativity and how they represented the importance of water conservation and protection. The original artwork featured illustrations made with paint, colored pencils, markers, or crayons.

The winners of this year's HCWA Art Content, who received gift cards and certificates for their achievement, included:

- K – 2nd grade – Harper Johnson, from Angie Sorby's class at Locust Grove Elementary School.
- 3rd – 5th grade – Trisha Patel, from Katie Medley's class at East Lake Elementary School.
- 6th – 8th grade – Brooklynn Mevissen, from Darsha Jackson's class at Locust Grove Middle School.
- 9th – 12th grade – Charlize Brown, from Mark McBride's class at McDonough High School.
- People's Choice Award – Riya Puri, from Lydia Dollar's class at Stockbridge Middle School.
- Teacher Door Prize Winner – Cornelius Harper from Woodland Middle School.

For the complete feature on the 2023 HCWA Art Contest, including photos, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



Trisha Patel, 3rd – 5th grade winner, from East Lake Elementary School.



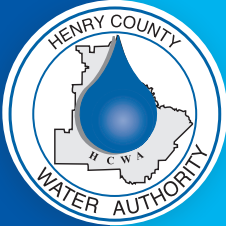
Charlize Brown (right), 9th – 12th grade winner, with teacher Mark McBride, from McDonough High School.

ADMINISTRATION  
AND  
LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter  
Sandra Rozier  
Myra Lott  
Warren Holder  
Bruce B. Holmes  
Fred Mays

Chairman  
Vice Chair  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Member  
Member  
Member

Tony V. Carnell  
General Manager  
Karen Lake-Thompson  
Clerk



HENRY COUNTY  
WATER AUTHORITY  
1695 Highway 20 West  
McDonough, GA 30253  
(770) 957-6659  
[www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com)