



HCWA Currents



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

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2 ♦ SUMMER 2016

HCWA sweeps statewide Plant of the Year Awards

Utility employee also wins Georgia Meter Madness

During the 2016 Spring Conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) received the top industry awards for the Best Operated Water and Wastewater Plants in Georgia. In addition, HCWA Water Loss Technician Alex McCart won the Georgia Meter Madness Competition.



The HCWA Tussahaw Plant staff celebrates winning the 2016 GAWP Plant of the Year Award for surface water treatment facilities with a capacity from 9 to 15 million gallons per day (MGD).

The HCWA Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant won the 2016 GAWP Plant of the Year Award by besting all facilities in the category of surface water treatment plants with capacities from 9 to 15 million gallons per day (MGD). The Tussahaw Plant is a repeat winner of the GAWP Plant of the Year Award, bringing home the honor in 2011 as well.

In addition to winning Plant of the Year, the Tussahaw Plant joined the Towaliga Water Plant as recipients of the 2016 GAWP Platinum Awards for 100% permit compliance for nine straight years.

As for wastewater plant awards, the HCWA Bear Creek Water Reclamation Facility became a three-time GAWP Plant of the Year winner, repeating the feat from 2012 and 2014 previously. In fact, the HCWA has produced the state's best wastewater plant in seven of the past eight years.

The GAWP selected Bear Creek as Georgia's best wastewater plant in the category of Non-Discharging Land Application Systems (LAS) with 1.1 to 10 MGD of wastewater treatment capacity. Bear Creek also received a GAWP Gold Award for 100% permit compliance, while the HCWA Walnut Creek Plant received a 2016 Platinum Award for seven straight years of no permit violations.

The Georgia Meter Madness Competition

challenges water professionals to assemble a standard residential water meter as quickly as possible. As the Georgia Champion, McCart won the competition with an average time of 14 seconds. As Georgia's Meter Madness Champion, he received an expense-paid trip by AWWA to attend their "ACE-16" (Annual Conference & Expo) to compete against other state sectional winners for the title of National Meter Madness Champion.



The HCWA Bear Creek Plant staff celebrates winning the 2016 GAWP Plant of the Year Award for wastewater treatment facilities with a capacity from 1.1 to 10 million gallons per day (MGD).

Henry County Water Quality Report assures drinking water safety

HCWA met or exceeded all requirements for water quality

With the ongoing crisis in Flint, Michigan raising awareness of the importance of water quality for public health, HCWA customers should be comforted knowing their drinking water is clean and safe to drink.

The laboratory evidence, verified by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is in the recently released 2016 Henry County Water Quality Report, which is available on our website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>.

The HCWA is in complete compliance with regulated limits of potential contaminants in our tap water – whether organic, inorganic, or microbiological, or as the result of disinfectants or disinfectant by-products used in the drinking water treatment process.

The purpose of this Water Quality Report is to inform HCWA customers of what is in their drinking water and why. In our case, HCWA drinking water met or exceeded all industry regulatory requirements for water quality, as determined by water samples and laboratory tests conducted during the 2015 calendar year.

The annual Water Quality Report provides consumers of HCWA tap water with accurate, scientific data reflecting the quality of the system's drinking water.



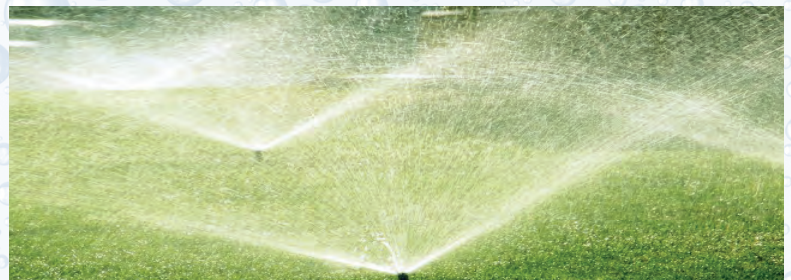
Outdoor Water Use Schedule

Daily outdoor watering for HCWA Customers is OK from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m., but this is subject to change in the event of future drought conditions.

According to the Georgia Water Stewardship Act, HCWA customers are allowed outdoor water use daily from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m., for the purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining lawns, other ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants.

The current outdoor water use schedule applies to the HCWA because we are a public system permitted for water production and distribution under the regulations of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

For more information on outdoor watering, including exemptions to the schedule, and a complete guide to wise water use, check us out at www.hcwa.com.



HCWA reminds customers of toilet rebates

To provide an incentive for customers to convert older toilets to more water efficient models, the HCWA offers a Toilet Rebate Program.

The newer, more efficient EPA WaterSense labeled toilets are available at many home improvement stores. These products provide savings on household water use as well as money on your monthly water bill.

EPA WaterSense labeled toilets can be purchased for as little as \$99, and for having them installed, HCWA customers may qualify for a \$100 rebate credit on their water bill.

By replacing old toilets with WaterSense labeled products, the average household can save up to 13,000 gallons of water per year, which can equate to a 10 percent reduction in their average monthly water bill.

For more information, contact us at 770-957-6659 or tara.brown@hcwa.com.



Metro Water District recognizes HCWA Public Outreach and Education

Authority wins STREAM Award for program and project excellence

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District handed out their inaugural STREAM (Sustainable, Thoughtful, Regional, Engaged, Applicable, Measurable) Awards recently, to recognize the program achievements of water utilities, authorities and local governments within the region.

The HCWA and its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center won the STREAM Award for Education and Outreach Program and Project Excellence, thanks to the work of the Cubihatcha Center to provide annual field trips for all Henry County third grade students.

Since 2003, the Cubihatcha Center has hosted

approximately 3,000 “Cubihatcha Kids” annually, providing field trips for “hands on” lessons in environmental education, organized by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

The HCWA, Henry County Board of Education, Henry County Board of Commissioners, and several other public and private partners, formed this non-profit Partnership to provide educational programming for local citizens.

The STREAM Awards were established in conjunction with the 15th Anniversary Celebration of the Metro Water District, held June 1 in Atlanta. The STREAM Awards also bring recognition to those who have helped advance the goals of the Metro Water District as an advocate for clean, abundant water supply for the Atlanta region.



Receiving the 2016 STREAM Award for the HCWA are (left to right): Deputy Manager Tony Carnell, Cubihatcha Naturalist Maranda Stonica, Assistant Reservoir Manager Ken Presley, Division Manager Scott Harrison, and Environmental Compliance Coordinator Tara Brown.

“WOW” Festival highlights Drinking Water Week

This past school year’s public education and outreach programming at Henry County Water included participation in the Children’s Wonder of Water (WOW) Festival, organized by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

The 13th annual Children’s WOW Festival was held on Friday May 6, at the Shamrock/Blalock Reservoirs and Community Use Facility in Jonesboro. This event welcomed approximately 700 fourth-graders from south metro schools, including students from Pleasant Grove Elementary in Stockbridge.

The WOW Festival coincides each year with Drinking Water Week, which is recognized nationally during the first week of May. Drinking Water Week also includes a statewide Water Professionals Appreciation Day, which honors public servants such as employees at the HCWA.

The goal of the Children’s WOW Festival is to provide educational opportunities for students in an outdoor setting that reminds them of the importance of water quality and quantity issues impacting local rivers, lakes and streams.

Check out photos from the WOW Festival online at www.hcwa.com.



The HCWA’s Patrick Chesley (right) teaches children about the importance of properly disposing of fats, oils, and grease, during the FOG Relays at the south metro WOW Festival.



Charlee Glenn, with the Cochran Mill Nature Center, explains the characteristics of turtles to fourth grade students during the Metro Water District’s recent Children’s WOW Festival.

HCWA Public Hunting Schedule set for 2016-17

If you or someone you know is interested in a chance to be selected in the lotteries for any of the HCWA public hunts this year, download an application from the Authority’s website at www.hcwa.com, or contact the HCWA staff at the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930. For inquiries about the Adult Deer Hunt on Nov. 12, contact the Authority staff at 678-583-5600.

Opportunities for the public to hunt on HCWA properties are provided as a part of the Authority’s public education and outreach programming, and according to its land management plan and practices. Regulatory oversight of hunting and land management is provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Sept. 3, 2016	Free Youth Dove Hunt
Oct. 15, 2016	Free Youth Deer Hunt
Nov. 5, 2016	Free Youth Deer Hunt
Nov. 12, 2016	Adult Deer Hunt
Jan. 20, 2017	Waterfowl Hunt
Jan. 21, 2017	Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt*



* Proceeds benefit the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership and public education programming for Henry County students.

Earth Day includes cleanup at Cubihatcha

To celebrate this year’s Earth Day, HCWA employees, their families and friends, and other volunteers, gathered at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center to spruce up the grounds for the summer and fall, when guests are expected by the thousands to tour the facility.

Earth Day volunteers kicked off the celebration with a morning 5K fun run to get the blood pumping. Then volunteers divided into three groups to plant trees, tend to the community garden, and add some amenities and landscaping to the public fishing area.

Come see the improvements to the Cubihatcha Center, located at 100 Collins Road in Locust Grove, by taking a tour or hike, or by scheduling a group outing. For more information, call us at 678-583-3930, or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CubihatchaOutdoorCenter.



HCWA employees and volunteers plant trees at the Cubihatcha Center during this year’s Earth Day Celebration.

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