



# HCWA Currents

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

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## Henry County Water Quality Report assures HCWA water is clean and safe to drink

The drinking water of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) once again has met or exceeded all industry safeguards for water quality. The proof of HCWA drinking water safety can be found in the results of the 2018 Water Quality Report.

This year's Water Quality Report includes published data from water samples collected and laboratory tests conducted from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2017. The Authority's data has been verified by the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

The results of the 2018 Henry County Water Quality Report reveal that the detected amounts of potential contaminants in HCWA drinking water are well within regulatory limits. Thus, the HCWA experienced no violations for detected levels of potential contaminants – whether organic,



The 2018 Henry County Water Quality Report is available on the Authority's website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>.

inorganic, or microbiological, or as the result of disinfectants or disinfectant by-products used in the drinking water treatment process.

HCWA officials say the successful results of its 2018 Water Quality Report can be attributed to proper long-term planning and investments in an award-winning system, which features some of the best facilities and water professionals in the industry.

The 2018 Henry County Water Quality Report is available on the Authority's website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>. Hard copies of the Report also are available upon request at the HCWA Headquarters, located at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough. Customers also can request to receive a copy via mail by calling 770-957-6659.

## HCWA honored with industry awards

The first half of this year has been highlighted by industry awards for the HCWA, for the outstanding performance of the utility's employees and facilities.

During the Annual Conference & Expo of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), the HCWA received the Master Plan Spotlight Award, in recognition of its 2015-2045 Water and Wastewater Master Plans.

In addition, Eric Osborne, HCWA Water Production Manager, received the Operator Meritorious Service Award from the American Water Works Association (AWWA), while Tony Carnell, HCWA Deputy Manager, was inducted into the GAWP 5-S Society. Finally, Barry Brand, HCWA Tussahaw Plant Supervisor, was honored with GAWP Life Membership for his 30 years of service.

During the GAWP Spring

Conference, the HCWA Bear Creek Facility received the Water Reclamation Facility of the Year Award, as one of the best managed and best operated facilities in Georgia. The Authority's Bear Creek and Walnut Creek Facilities also received Platinum Awards for 100 percent permit compliance for at least five consecutive years.

In addition, the HCWA Tussahaw and Towliga Water Treatment Plants each received a Certificate of Achievement for Best Operated Water Plant in Georgia, as well as Platinum Awards for operating 11 consecutive years without a permit violation.

Finally, the Authority's Eric Osborne and Lesa Walker, HCWA Operations Manager, have been inducted into the inaugural GAWP Golden Hydrant Society, an honor presented by the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA).



(L to R): James "Buster" Cook, Roy Lewis, and Sherry Hannah receive the GAWP Water Reclamation Facility of the Year Award on behalf of the HCWA for the Bear Creek Facility.

## Workshops introduce teachers to the water industry

With the start of the 2018-19 school year, the 18 Henry County science teachers who completed the HCWA Rain to Drain Workshops this summer will be armed with resources to assist them in teaching STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) curricula.

The Rain to Drain Workshops provided an orientation for teachers on all parts of HCWA operations, including four days of tours and activities at the Authority's Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility, Engineering Complex, and Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center, respectively.

Henry County teachers noted the value of the Rain to Drain Workshops during their exit interviews and evaluations of the program. One noted the workshops "opened up a whole new world for science and exploration; I see many lessons that the students will get excited about!"



HCWA Plant Manager David Farmer (center) leads Henry County teachers on a tour of the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility during Day 2 of this summer's Rain to Drain Workshops.

## HCWA customers have convenient payment options

HCWA customers have some of the most convenient and efficient methods for making a monthly payment.

Traditionally, HCWA customers pay their bill in person at the Authority headquarters or by mailing in a check or money order.

Customer can sign up for paperless billing, Auto Pay, or go online to view and pay their bill via credit/debit card or e-check, by using the "Pay Your Bill" portal on the Authority's website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com). Paperless billing is another option available to our customers – something the Authority hopes you will consider.

The HCWA also has a kiosk and a Night Drop available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, though we ask you to please do not leave cash in the Night Depository. The Kiosk accepts checks, cash, and credit/debit card payments.

Payments by phone can be made by calling 404-341-9689 or toll-free at 1-



# Second Front

## HCWA invites you to consider Public Education Events this Fall

Mark your calendar for opportunities to volunteer or participate in the following:

**Cubihatcha Kids Fields Trips** for third grade students from Henry County Schools will be held at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center during the school weeks of Sept. 10-14 and Sept. 24-28.

**Storm the Watershed** – a family festival and 15K/5K run organized by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District – is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 13, at the HCWA Longbranch Reservoir, with the hope to increase awareness about stormwater pollution prevention and the protection of our local watersheds.

**Henry County Rivers Alive** is slated for Saturday Nov. 3, at a local waterway to be determined. Rivers Alive is Georgia's annual waterway cleanup event established by the state Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division.

**Georgia's Model Water Tower Competition** – an event designed to teach youth about water resource engineering, infrastructure, water treatment and water conservation – will be conducted among Henry County schools on Friday Nov. 16.

For more information about these and other public education and outreach events at the HCWA, contact Tara Brown at [tara.brown@hcwa.com](mailto:tara.brown@hcwa.com) or 678-583-3810; or, call the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930.



Henry County Rivers Alive, which will be held on Saturday Nov. 3, is one of many public education and outreach events being hosted by the HCWA this fall.

### Educating students at the Children's Water Festival

Approximately 300 fourth grade students, the majority of whom were from Henry County Schools, took part in the 15th annual Children's Water Festival during National Drinking Water Week in May.

The Children's Water Festival – sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, with help from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals – provides hands-on educational opportunities for students in an outdoor setting, to remind them of the importance of water quality and quantity issues.

During the Festival, HCWA employees and other water professionals taught students about watershed protection, water quality,



Maranda Stonica, Naturalist at the HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center, holds back the fourth-grade students prior to the start of their FOG relays.



HCWA Maintenance Mechanics Chris Kuhn (far left) and Robert Sims explain the use of this truck and crane for maintenance of the utility's infrastructure.

the proper disposal of FOG (fats, oils, and grease), utility trucks and large equipment, as well as wetland wildlife.

For more information on HCWA public education, contact Tara Brown at [tara.brown@hcwa.com](mailto:tara.brown@hcwa.com) or 678-583-3810. And check out the photo gallery on our website for pictures from this year's Children's Water Festival and other HCWA events.

### Steer clear of the F.O.G.!



Please do not put Fats, Oils, or Grease (F.O.G.) down your sink!

When it comes to F.O.G., cool it, can it, and trash it!

### HCWA 2018 Hunting Schedule Set

The HCWA has offered the public an opportunity to hunt on its property for five years now. What started in 2013 as a trial to gauge public interest in hunting has now grown into a hunting season, with four scheduled events on tap this year.

The 2018-19 Public Hunting Season at the HCWA includes the following events:

- **HCWA Youth Deer Hunt – Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018**
- **HCWA Youth Deer Hunt – Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018**
- **HCWA Veterans Deer Hunt – Friday, Nov. 10, 2018**
- **HCWA Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt – Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19, 2018**  
to benefit the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

Participants in these hunts are selected via a blind draw among qualified Henry County property owners, residents, or HCWA customers. Once selected, all participants go through a safety orientation prior to taking part in any of the public hunts, which are overseen by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The 2018 HCWA Fishing Season also is in full swing at the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs. The public is invited to fish on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, now through the end of November.

For more information on fishing or hunting at the HCWA, check out our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com), or contact the staff at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center at 678-583-3930.



### Water Conservation Tips

- Only water plants when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- Water the root zone of the plant instead of the foliage. This saves water and reduces diseases.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers well-adapted to our region.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Find more conservation tips at  
[mydropcounts.org](http://mydropcounts.org)

### ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

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