



Celebrating BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CELEBRATING Women's History Month

Stroud Family Has Strong History at HCWA

Perhaps no family personifies the positive impact of black history on the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) more than the Stroud family.

Willie "Hump" Stroud was the first of the Stroud brothers to join the Authority in 1978, followed by his brother Donald in 1983 and Danny Lee in 1984. While Willie and Danny Lee have since passed, Donald was honored in 2022, upon his retirement after serving nearly 40 years at HCWA.

In addition to the three Stroud brothers providing dedicated service and significant contributions to the Authority and its customers, the family's next generation boasts a few water professionals as well. Donald's nephews Wayne Blanton, who is the GAWP District 3 Water Distribution Top Operator, Nick Clark, and Chris Walker, as well as brother-in-law J.D. Walker, are currently working at the HCWA in various capacities.

Other notable African American HCWA employees include the first African American General Manager Tony Carnell, the first African American Clerk Karen Lake-Thompson, and Kelvin Campbell, who was recently recognized for his 35 years of dedicated service to the Authority.

For the complete feature celebrating Black History at the HCWA, please visit our website "News" at www.hcwa.com.



HCWA General Manager Tony Carnell (left) honors Donald Stroud upon his retirement after nearly 40 years of dedicated service to the Authority and its customers.

Hampton Middle School student wins annual Essay Contest

HCWA General Manager Tony Carnell (center, right) congratulates Teniola Ogungbamila (center, left), who is accompanied by her mother Juliet (far left) and her father Johnson (far right), on her winning essay for Henry County following the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's 22nd annual Essay Contest.

Ogungbamila, who is a student of Ms. Jada Byrd at Hampton Middle School, is one of the 15 county winners from the Metro Water District. Her essay was titled: "Water Matters!"

For the complete feature on our Essay Contest winner, please visit our website "News" at www.hcwa.com.



HCWA Celebrates Several Industry Awards during 2023 Employees and Operations recognized for excellence



The HCWA received four industry awards during the GAWP Fall Conference this year, including Platinum Awards for its Wastewater Collection System and Water Distribution System, as well as a Laboratory QA/QC Award and a Golden Manhole Society inductee.

The HCWA celebrated several industry awards during 2023, as employees and operations were recognized for excellence.

During the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Fall Conference, the HCWA received both the (Wastewater) Collection System and Water Distribution System Platinum Awards for achieving a grade of 95% or higher on the annual evaluation of these respective systems for five consecutive years.

This past fall, the HCWA also won the Wastewater Laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) Gold Award for its Walnut Creek Lab, while the Authority's Cliff Hardin was inducted into the prestigious Golden Manhole Society.

At the GAWP Spring Conference, the Authority's Patrick Chesley won the Top Wastewater Plant Operator Award for Georgia's District 3, while Wayne Blanton won the Top Water Distribution Operator Award for District 3 as well.

Finally, the HCWA also won the GAWP Public Education Program of Excellence Award this past year.

For more information on HCWA awards, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



The HCWA staff celebrates three industry awards for Top Operators and Public Education Programming following the GAWP Spring Conference.

HCWA Customers Have Many Convenient Payment Options

The HCWA offers its customers many convenient options for paying your monthly bill. You can pay in person, by phone, on-line through our website customer portal, or through an automatic bill pay set up through your financial institution.

In addition, the HCWA accepts many different forms of payment. You can pay with cash, paper check, e-check, or money order – none of which have convenience fees added on. Or you can pay with your debit or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express), or through preferred mobile payment services, such as Google Pay, Apple Pay, Pay Pal, or Venmo. Payments made with debit/credit cards or mobile payment services do include a small convenience fee, however.

For additional information on your many convenient payment options, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/about-us/faqs.cms>.



Customer Appreciation set for Fix a Leak Week, March 18-24

The HCWA annual Customer Appreciation celebration will be held again this year during national Fix a Leak Week, which runs from March 18-24, 2024. In addition, World Water Day is recognized that week as well, on Friday, March 22.

During that week, our customer service representatives will be giving out HCWA swag, while also handing out free water efficiency kits and reminders of wise water use tips.

For tips on finding and fixing household leaks, as well as other wise water use tips, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/water-conservation.cms>.



MARCH 18-24
Fix a Leak Week
& CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Cubihatcha Center – Opportunities Abound for Outdoor Recreation and Education

Fishing Season runs from March thru November!

The 2024 Fishing Season at HCWA Reservoirs opens the first weekend in March and runs thru the end of November. During these months, the HCWA Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs will be available to the public on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Daylight Saving Time).

In addition, during April and May, the HCWA will open the Gardner (Indian Creek) Reservoir for anglers as well, but only on Saturdays and Sundays.

To enjoy fishing and outdoor recreation on HCWA reservoirs, customers can purchase a one-year reservoir use permit for \$50 or a two-year reservoir use permit for the reduced price of \$85.

Permits are valid for the entire calendar year(s) from the date of purchase, and HCWA reservoir use permit holders can bring a guest with them for free.

More information on the HCWA Fishing Season is available on the Authority's website at www.hcwa.com.



Earth Day Workday is April 20

The HCWA Cubihatcha Center staff will be hosting an Earth Day Workday on Saturday, April 20. Those interested in celebrating Earth Day a few days early can come join us for a trail cleanup, planting, beautification, as well as work in our Community Garden. Please visit www.hcwa.com or the Cubihatcha Facebook page for updates.

Safe Boating Week is May 18-24

Since HCWA reservoirs are a popular destination for local fishing and boating, the HCWA is an advocate for boater safety. Safe Boating Week will be held May 18-24, when the Cubihatcha Center staff hopes to raise awareness of the importance of life jacket use when customers are on the water.

Family Fishing Day is Saturday, June 8

The annual HCWA Family Fishing Day will be held on Saturday, June 8, at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center and adjacent Long Branch Reservoir in Locust Grove. The event is open to kids from the ages of 3 to 17, but accompanying adults are also welcome to fish for free that day. No fishing licenses or reservoir use permits are required. Prizes will be awarded for biggest catches of the day. Please visit www.hcwa.com or the Cubihatcha Facebook page for updates.

HCWA Board Selects Officers for 2024

By unanimous vote during the January HCWA Board Meeting, the six-member Authority Board selected District 1 Member Warren Holder to serve as Chairman this year.

In addition, District 4 Member Sandra Rozier will continue to serve as Vice Chair, while District 5 Member Myra Lott will continue in her role as Secretary/Treasurer.

Rounding out the 2024 HCWA Board is District 2 Member Bruce Holmes, District 3 Member Jimmy Carter, and At-Large Member Fred Mays.

Mr. Holder is the owner of Warren Holder Equipment, LLC in Locust Grove. He is a former Henry County Commissioner who has served on the HCWA Board since January of 2017.

For the complete feature on the 2024 HCWA Board Elections, as well as profiles on all six HCWA Board Members, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



Warren Holder (far right) has been selected to serve as Chairman of the HCWA Board this year. Joining Mr. Holder during the Board's swearing in ceremony are (left to right): District 2 Member Bruce Holmes, District 3 Member Jimmy Carter, Vice-Chair Sandra Rozier, the Hon. Judge Holly Veal, Secretary/Treasurer Myra Lott, and At-Large Member Fred Mays.

Drink Container Waste Trivia

Not only is bottled water less regulated and more expensive than clean, fresh HCWA tap water, those plastic bottles can harm the environment if not recycled properly. Please help protect our water quality by properly disposing or recycling these items.

Consider these five commonly used drink containers, which range from 3 months to 1 million years of time for them to decompose:

- Plastic Bottle
- Waxed (Milk) Carton
- Glass Bottle
- Foamed Plastic (Styrofoam) Cup
- Aluminum Can

Can you place the items above in order from the shortest to the longest time required to decompose? Answers (don't look until you try) are provided below:



Waxed Milk Carton (3 months), Foamed Plastic Cup (50 years), Aluminum Can (80-200 years), Plastic Beverage/Water Bottle (450 years), and Glass Bottle (1 million years).

Youth, Veterans Enjoy Opportunities to Hunt on HCWA Property

The HCWA hosted three successful hunts at its Walnut Creek Land Application Site during the 2023 Hunting Season this past fall.

The first HCWA Youth Hunt on Oct. 21 featured 28 youth, ranging from 10 to 17 years old, who were selected by lottery from a total of 40 applicants. The event yielded a harvest of 27 deer.

The second Youth Hunt on Nov. 4 saw 27 participants chosen out of 35 applicants harvest 25 deer.

Finally, the HCWA Veteran's Hunt on Nov. 18 welcomed 30 veterans who harvested 14 deer.

Sponsors of the fall hunting events included the HCWA, its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center, and Southside Sportsman Association.

For the complete feature on the successful 2023 HCWA Hunting Season, please visit our website "News" at www.hcwa.com.

If you are interested in participating in the 2024 HCWA Hunting Season this fall, applications will be available on our website or at the Cubihatcha Center beginning in August. For more information, contact the Cubihatcha Center staff at 678-583-3930 or by email at communityevents@hcwa.com.



Grandfather Isaac Borges, Jr. (left), who served 42 years in the U.S. Army, is joined by his son Mike (center/back) and grandson Ethan (right), inside a blind that was custom made to accommodate his disability during the most recent HCWA Veteran's Hunt.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

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

Chairman
Vice Chair
Secretary / Treasurer
Member
Member
Member

Tony V. Carnell
Karen Lake-Thompson

General Manager
Clerk



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