



# HCWA Currents



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

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## HCWA hosts field trips for Henry County 3rd graders

*Cubihatcha Kids annual event voted best Public Education Initiative in the state*



The Authority's Tara Brown (left, background) oversees the popular FOG Relay for Joy Mao's (far right) 3rd grade class from Dutchtown Elementary School during the school's annual field trip to the HCWA Cubihatcha Center.

The HCWA hosted approximately 3,000 Henry County 3rd grade students and 100-plus teachers for field trips at its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center during a two-week period from Sept. 15 – 26, 2014. This marked the 11th year the Authority has hosted the "Cubihatcha Kids" field trips, which are organized by the local non-profit Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) recognized the Authority's Cubihatcha Kids Field Trips with the industry award for the Best

Public Education Initiative (most unique and effective public education event) in the state at its Fall Conference in Dalton.

The mission of these field trips is to provide opportunities for "hands-on" learning for students through appropriate curricula, while enhancing their appreciation of natural resources and interest in science.

Photos from this year's Cubihatcha Kids Field Trips are available on the Authority's website at <http://hcwsa.com/galleries/Cubihatcha-Kids-2014-Field-Trips>.



Volunteers from the Georgia Farm Bureau lead a class on farming, providing seeds for Henry County 3rd grade students to plant during their annual field trips to the HCWA Cubihatcha Center.

## Henry County Water spreads the word on how to protect water resources

*Children's Water Festival an example of utility's efforts in public outreach and education*

As a member of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD), the Henry County Water Authority joined other local water utilities at the first south metro Atlanta Children's Water Festival.

The goal of the Festival is to provide a fun-filled day featuring demonstrations and activities to raise awareness among elementary school students of critical water pollution issues and how they can help protect natural resources.

Fourth graders from Locust Grove Elementary School were among the several hundred students in attendance during the event at Welcome All Park in South Fulton County.

The Festival included a puppet show on water pollution and solutions, a relay race that taught students to properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease (FOG), a session for children to build (and enjoy consuming) an edible watershed, a wildlife display, a touch-a-truck station, and more.

Employees from the HCWA assisted with the wildlife display and provided a demonstration on the use of the utility's bucket truck and equipment that keeps the water and sewer system running properly. The HCWA mascot, Henry C. Water, also was on hand to greet the elementary school students as they arrived for the event.



Employees from the Henry County Water Authority introduce students to features of the utility's bucket truck during the "Touch a Truck" session of the MNGWPD Children's Water Festival.

## HCWA employees assist local students during the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition

Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) employees served as volunteers for the 2014 Georgia Model Water Tower Competition – an Engineering Challenge for Middle School Students – held Friday, Oct. 25, at Woodland Middle School in Henry County.

The annual competition challenges local students to design and build a water tower with specific size and height requirements. The students competing this year hailed from Austin Road and Woodland Middle Schools in Henry County. Their model water towers were judged by water professionals, who awarded Jessica Grimes of Austin Road Middle School as the overall winner for submitting an artistic and operational "minion" water tower.



Jessica Grimes of Austin Road Middle School was the winner of the 2014 Georgia Model Water Tower Competition.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition, which was first held in 2012, is hosted by the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA) and the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP). HCWA employees volunteering for the event this year included Kim Pace, Tara Brown, Bridget Graham, Tamara Smith, and Patrick Kelley.

The water tower models are judged based on three criteria, including structural efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, and design ingenuity. The model water towers may be designed and constructed from any materials. However, students are rewarded for using



Patrick Kelley (right), Project Engineer with the Henry County Water Authority, checks the dimensions and functionality of a student's model water tower.

creative designs and innovative materials, such as everyday household items.

The objective of the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition is to make participants more aware of the importance of reliable drinking water, while introducing them to rewarding (career) opportunities available in the water profession.





# Second Front

## HCWA offers fishing, hunting, and outdoor education for customers

When 2014 comes to a close, HCWA customers will have enjoyed plentiful opportunities for outdoor education and recreation.

The 2014 regular fishing season provided approximately 1,400 HCWA customers with the opportunity to fish close to home with their reservoir use permits. In addition, the 2014-15 hunting season at the Cubihatcha Center and the Walnut Creek Land Application System (LAS) site – protected green space where treated waste water is sprayed over hundreds of acres – featured six hunts for youth and adults.

The hunting events this year included a waterfowl fundraiser hunt on Nov. 29, with funds going to the non-profit Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership to provide future public education programming. Another waterfowl fundraiser hunt – and final hunt of the season – is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2015.



Participants selected through a lottery enjoyed the first HCWA Youth Deer Hunt of 2014 on Oct. 11, held at the Authority's Walnut Creek Land Application System (LAS) property.

In addition, the Authority hosted a youth goose hunt on Sept. 27, two youth deer hunts on Oct. 11 and Nov. 8, and an adult deer hunt on Oct. 25. Spots for the hunts were allotted according to a lottery, with each event filling up when applicants quickly outnumbered available blinds.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, like one 10-year-old girl who thanked the HCWA for "providing me with memories I will never forget."

The youth and adult deer hunts served a dual purpose of providing outdoor recreation for local hunters,

who also are helping to manage the deer population on the Authority's LAS sites. Overpopulated deer eat pine tree seedlings planted by the Authority, which negatively impact land management. Pine trees, which have experienced significant damage over the years by the deer population, are an essential component of the Authority's waste water treatment process.

This year, the Authority expects to reach its goal to cull 60 deer during the youth and adult hunts, which were implemented as a part of the overall HCWA land management plan. The hunts were held under the supervision and oversight of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

For more information on opportunities for outdoor education and recreation on HCWA properties, customers can contact the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930, or log onto our website at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com).

### Fishing continues this winter at Tussahaw

When the HCWA regular fishing season ends on the last weekend in November, local anglers don't have to put away their rods and reels if they don't want to. Public fishing will be available on the Tussahaw Reservoir during select weekends this winter.

The Authority's Tussahaw Reservoir – a 1,466-acre lake with nearly 10 billion gallons of raw water storage capacity – will be open for public fishing this winter on the following dates:

- 👉 December 12-14, 2014
- 👉 January 16-18, 2015
- 👉 February 13-15, 2015

During these weekends, the Tussahaw Reservoir will open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The 2015 regular fishing season at Henry County Water will begin March 1.

For more information on fishing at HCWA reservoirs, anglers can contact the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930, or log onto our website at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com).



### Protect pipes from freezing with winterization tips

With winter just a short time away, it's not too early for HCWA customers to consider winterization tips for their homes and properties.

By winterizing pipes as necessary, HCWA customers can save time and money through continued wise water use, as well as prevent water loss through frozen pipe bursts and water leaks, some of which may not show up until spring.

According to Henry County Water Authority officials and sources from the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service and others, customers can prevent exposed valves, pipes, irrigation systems, or other water products from freezing by following these tips:

- ❄️ Use wraps or tapes to insulate pipes.
- ❄️ Consider adding or supplementing insulation to water heaters.
- ❄️ Drain sprinkler systems, which

hold water even when inactive.

- ❄️ Disconnect garden hoses and drain outdoor water faucets.
- ❄️ If a faucet is not frost free, find the shut-off valve where the pipe feeds the faucet outside of the home or building and turn it off, prior to opening the outside faucet until it drains completely.
- ❄️ Winterize air conditioning units by draining their pipes and hoses.
- ❄️ Remove window air conditioning units and insulate those areas.
- ❄️ Clean gutters, so winter rains and melting snow can drain.
- ❄️ When leaving for an extended period of time, turn the temperature down to 55 degrees.
- ❄️ Should a pipe burst due to freezing or under any other circumstances, always know how to shut off the main water line.



### HCWA launching Charitable Assistance Program



The HCWA is launching a Charitable Assistance Program, allowing customers to "round up" their bill to help others in need. Look for more information to come in customer bills, the *Currents* newsletter, and on our website at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com).

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