



# HCWA Currents



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

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2 ♦ SPRING 2014

## For the fourth year in a row, Henry County Water has the Plant of the Year in Georgia

For the fourth straight year, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) has the best wastewater plant in the state, with the 2014 honors going to the Bear Creek Water Reclamation Facility in Hampton.

During its recent Spring Conference, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) recognized Bear Creek with the Plant of the Year Award for facilities with 1 to 10 million gallon per



The Henry County Water Authority staff at the Bear Creek Water Reclamation Facility, who brought home the state's Wastewater Plant of the Year Award, include (left to right): Roy Lewis, Scott Hamrick, Linda Dunaway, Sherry Hannah, and Steve Copeland, joined by Buster Cook, Supervisor of Wastewater Operations, and Jason Jeffares, Manager of Water Pollution Control.

day (MGD) of wastewater treatment capacity.

In addition, the Bear Creek and Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facilities won GAWP Gold Awards for 100 percent permit compliance this past year, while the Walnut Creek Plant won a GAWP Platinum Award for five consecutive years of no permit violations.

On the water side of HCWA operations, the Authority's Tussahaw and Towaliga Water Treatment Facilities both won Platinum Awards as well, but for seven straight years of 100 percent permit compliance. The HCWA also won the award for Best Tasting Drinking Water in Georgia's District 3, prior to coming in third in the statewide competition among all district taste test winners.

Also during the GAWP Spring Conference, the Authority's Stan Stanley received the "Top Op" Award, given to the best wastewater plant operator during the year, in the state's District 3. And the Authority's Nic Spann narrowly defeated fellow HCWA employee Brook Jackson to win the state Meter Madness competition, which tests who can assemble a residential water meter in the fastest time. Spann did so in just under 35 seconds.

The GAWP Plant of the Year Award for Bear Creek marks the fourth time in as many years that the HCWA has boasted the state's best wastewater

plant. Bear Creek also was a Plant of the Year winner in 2012, sandwiched between the Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility's award in 2011 and the Walnut Creek Plant's honor last year.

HCWA customers are welcome to tour any of the water or wastewater facilities, to learn more about how your water and sewage are treated. To schedule a plant tour or other facility visit, contact Tara Brown, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at 678-583-3810 or [tara.brown@hcwsa.com](mailto:tara.brown@hcwsa.com).



The Henry County Water Authority's Stan Stanley won the Top Op Award as the best wastewater plant operator in the state's District 3, as judged by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

## Some tips to help you find and fix a Leak

Henry County Water Authority employees made their annual pilgrimage in March to The Home Depot and Lowe's in McDonough to offer tips on wise water use and leak detection for store customers.



Henry County Water Authority employee Gary May presents Daphne Douglas with a free water efficient toilet, which she won in a drawing sponsored by Lowe's in McDonough during national Fix a Leak Week.

The Authority celebrated national Drinking Water Week with in-store displays and demonstrations at both home improvement stores. The Home Depot and Lowe's sponsored a drawing for the HCWA to give away a free water efficient toilet to a lucky customer, who stopped by the HCWA booth during Drinking Water Week to learn more about how to save water and money by finding and fixing household leaks.

In order to continue wise water use, consider the following process for locating leaks at your home or property:

- Turn off all water inside and outside the house.
- Remove the meter box lid and watch the meter.
- If the triangular black or red "flow indicator" is spinning while the water is turned off, you have a leak.
- If the indicator is not moving, check it again in 10 minutes to see if it has moved, and if so, you have a slow leak.

- Locate the main shut-off valve in your house and turn it off.
- Turn on a faucet inside the house, and if it continues to run after several seconds, the shut-off valve is not working.
- If water eventually stops running from the faucet, return to the meter and check again to see if the flow indicator is moving.
- If the indicator or dial hand is moving, water is still flowing between the meter and the shut-off valve, so your leak is likely underground.
- If the indicator is not moving, then your leak is likely indoors.

To test for a leak at the most common point in the home – each toilet – place water based food coloring (to prevent from discoloring the inside of your toilet) in the back of the toilet tank. After 15 to 20 minutes, check to see if water in the toilet bowl has changed colors. If so, you have a "silent leak" in your toilet, so make sure necessary parts are replaced.

For more information on leak detection and wise water use, contact Tara Brown, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at 678-583-3810.



Tara Brown (left), HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, shares consumer tips and educational material with a customer at the McDonough Lowe's during this year's Fix a Leak Week.

## HCWA offers customers convenient payment methods

The HCWA provides several convenient and efficient options for customers to pay their monthly water/sewer bill, such as these secure payment methods:

### Pay by Automated Draft

Have your payment automatically debited from your checking or savings account each month. Applications for automated/direct bank draft service are available on our website at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com) or by calling our Customer Service Department at 770-957-6659.

### Pay Online

You also can pay your bill online when registering and logging onto your account on our website ([www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com)), which then allows you to check your balance and pay by credit card (MasterCard/Visa or debit card).

### Pay by Phone

Call our Customer Service Department at 770-957-6659 to pay by credit card (MasterCard/Visa or debit card) over the phone.

### Pay by Mail (Check or Money Order)

You can pay your bill by regular mail, using a check or money order. Place your check or money order and the payment portion of the bill in the return envelope provided. Be sure to include your telephone number, with area code, on your check to ensure prompt and accurate posting of your payment.



### Pay in Person

Finally, you can pay your bill in person at the HCWA headquarters at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough, during our business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Be sure to bring your bill for prompt and accurate posting of your payment. Payments are accepted at the customer service counter, at our drive-thru window, or via our night depository. (Please, no cash payments in the night drop box.)

# Second Front

## Henry County Water celebrates Earth Day with Cubihatcha Cleanup

Approximately 30 volunteers took part in the first Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) Earth Day Cleanup at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center on April 19, a few days prior to the global celebration of Earth Day on April 22.

The volunteers, consisting of HCWA employees, family members and friends, braved cold and drizzly weather to spruce up the public use facility and clear an estimated two miles of brush and storm debris from the long/river trail that runs between the Upper and Lower Towaliga Reservoirs.

The Cubihatcha Center is the focal point of outdoor education

and public recreation provided by Henry County Water. Thousands of guests visit the Center annually for school field trips, fishing and hunting events, as well as group outings to the campus, which features an interpretive center, meeting room, outdoor classrooms, two constructed trails, and the HCWA Reservoirs Office.

*Protect our environment by NOT pouring grease down the sink.*

The Cubihatcha loop trail is two miles in length and open to the public year-round. The long/river trail typically is open

from April to October, though construction of the bridge at Highway 155, coupled with storms that have damaged boardwalks along the route, have caused the Authority to close this amenity temporarily. Authority officials hope the Earth Day Cubihatcha Cleanup will go a long way toward allowing the Center's staff to re-open the long/river trail to the public in some capacity later this year.

For more information on guided tours or group outings at the Cubihatcha Center, customers can contact Maranda Stonica at 678-583-3930 or [maranda.stonica@hcwsa.com](mailto:maranda.stonica@hcwsa.com).



Lesla Walker, HCWA Operations Manager, leads a team of volunteers during the Cubihatcha Cleanup in recognition of Earth Day at Henry County Water.

## HCWA Cubihatcha Fishing Tournament a sellout

Organizers of the first annual Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center Youth Fishing Tournament fundraiser were seeking 25 teams to enter this inaugural event, but were pleasantly surprised with a sellout, plus a few additional teams to round out the field of competitors.

The results of the Youth Fishing Tournament featured three winners with the largest Bass:

- 1st place – Coleman Selfe (the biggest catch of the day)
- 2nd place – Colton Turner
- 3rd place – Madison Harp

The contestant who caught the largest Crappie was Cannon Smith. Runners up in the bass fishing category were Nolan Randolph, Chase Holder, Chase Phillips, Drake Laney, and Kaleb Nation.



A sellout crowd of 31 two-person teams competed in the inaugural Youth Fishing Tournament fundraiser, to benefit the local non-profit Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

Sponsors of the Youth Fishing Tournament fundraiser included: Henry County Water, Southside Sportsman Association, Maurice Sporting Goods, and JWA Public Communications.

The 31 two-person teams who took part in the fundraiser raised money to benefit the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership. This local 501 C-3 was established in 2003 to provide outdoor education programming for students and adults.

Participants enjoyed fishing for their bass and crappie on the 277-acre Long Branch/James H. Roland Reservoir, which is one of five reservoirs within the network of HCWA water resources used for drinking water production.

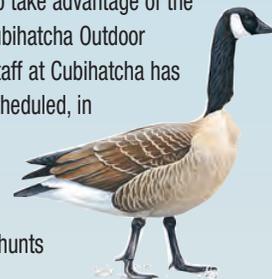
For more information on hosting your own fishing event or group outing at the HCWA Cubihatcha Center, contact Maranda Stonica at 678-583-3930 or [maranda.stonica@hcwsa.com](mailto:maranda.stonica@hcwsa.com).



The teams competing in the inaugural Cubihatcha Center Youth Fishing Tournament fundraiser at the HCWA Long Branch/James H. Roland Reservoir faced cold temperatures and difficult conditions. Still, this team found success when reeling in a bass that was among the better catches of the day.

## HCWA hunting season set

HCWA customers are invited to take advantage of the 2014-15 hunting season at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center. The Authority staff at Cubihatcha has a few supervised hunts already scheduled, in hopes to build upon the success of the four public hunting events that were held this past season. All applications for the scheduled hunts are due in August.



The following hunts are scheduled for this year:

- September 27, 2014 – Youth Goose Hunt at the Tussahaw Reservoir and Tussahaw Island Public Use Area.
- October 4, 2014 – Youth Archery Deer Hunt at the Cubihatcha Center.
- November 8, 2014 – Youth Shotgun Deer Hunt at the Cubihatcha Center.
- November 29, 2014 – First Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt.
- January 17, 2015 – Second Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt.

### *Hunting applications due in August*

All hunts on HCWA properties are held in compliance and under the supervision of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Applications, including necessary licenses and waivers, are required by the HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center, located at 100 Collins Road in Locust Grove. Contact the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930 for more information, or email the Authority's Jeff Scott at [jeffrey.scott@hcwsa.com](mailto:jeffrey.scott@hcwsa.com).



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