



# HCWA Currents



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

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## Henry County Water encouraging customers to find and fix those leaks

When the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) became a WaterSense promotional partner with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) years ago, the utility stepped up as an advocate for wise water use among its more than 50,000 water customers.

With that in mind, the Authority is raising awareness of the importance of leak detection and repair with in-store events at The Home Depot and Lowe's in McDonough on Saturday March 15. This year's national Fix a Leak Week is March 17-23.

From 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday March 15, HCWA employees will set up displays and demonstrations at Lowe's in McDonough and then travel across town for a repeat performance from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Home Depot.

While talking to customers at Lowe's and



HCWA employees Mimi Reynolds (far right) and Ronny Powell (center) discuss wise water use and leak detection tips with a Lowe's customer during last year's Fix a Leak Week.

The Home Depot on March 15, HCWA employees will educate them on how to read

a water bill for possible indications of a leak. In addition, employees will demonstrate leak detection technologies and repair methods, while displaying and showcasing water saving fixtures and appliances. Finally, Lowe's customers can register for a free water efficient toilet to be given out at the conclusion of the morning event.

According to EPA statistics, the average American home can waste more than 10,000 gallons of water each year, due to household leaks, with the cumulative effect being up to 1 trillion gallons of water loss from U.S. residences annually.

For more information on finding and fixing leaks, citizens can contact Henry County Water at 678-583-3810, or check out the Web site at [www.hcwsa.com/detecting-a-leak](http://www.hcwsa.com/detecting-a-leak). Additional information on water saving products and methods is available online at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

## Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center hosting first fishing tournament fundraiser

The Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center will be hosting its first fishing tournament fundraiser on Saturday March 29, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Long Branch/Rowland Reservoir.



David Benton celebrates a catch during last summer's Kayak and Fishing Field Day at the Long Branch Reservoir, which is the site of the first Cubihatcha Center fishing tournament fundraiser on March 29.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, a local 501 C-3 founded in 2003 to provide outdoor education programming for students and

adults. The Partnership includes the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA), the Henry County Board of Education and Board of Commissioners, and several other public and private organizations.

The adult/youth fishing tournament on Saturday March 29, will test the skill of local anglers fishing for bass and crappie on the 277-acre Long Branch Reservoir, which is one of five within the HCWA reservoir network used for drinking water production.

The fishing tournament is open to Henry County residents and property owners, as well as Authority customers. A team entering the tournament must consist of one child, between the ages of 6 and 17, and an adult. The cost of the event is \$50 dollars per team, with first, second, and third place prizes being awarded for the largest catches of the day. All teams must fish from boats with no more power than what's available with an electric or trolling motor.

For more information on the fishing tournament, including applications for entry, anglers can contact the Cubihatcha Center at 678-583-3930, or email Jeff Scott at [jeffrey.scott@hcwsa.com](mailto:jeffrey.scott@hcwsa.com).

## Fishing Season Open March – November

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) regular season for public fishing begins March 1 and continues through the end of November, as the Tussahaw and Ed Cole/Upper Towaliga Reservoirs will be open to anglers again this year.

During the 2014 HCWA fishing season, the two reservoirs will be open on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga are ideal sites for local anglers to fish for bass, crappie, brim, and catfish.

In order to fish HCWA reservoirs, anglers must have an active reservoir use permit, which is valid for one calendar year from the date of purchase. A permit holder may take one guest with them to fish free of charge. HCWA Reservoir Use

Permits can be purchased for \$45 (with discounts for seniors, veterans, and citizens with disabilities) at the Authority headquarters, during the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Permit holders also must sign a release form and adhere to all rules and regulations governing the use of HCWA reservoirs and Georgia public waters. Only fishing from the banks and in boats powered with no more than electric/trolling motors is allowed, as drinking water reservoirs have stricter requirements for public access than recreational lakes.

For more information on fishing at HCWA reservoirs, log onto the Authority's Web site at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com), or contact the HCWA Reservoirs Office at 678-583-3930.



The Authority's Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs will be open for public fishing during the 2014 regular season, which begins March 1 and extends through the end of November.

**Please think before you pour grease down the sink!**

**You can help prevent sewer line clogs, spills and overflows by properly disposing of household grease.**

**For more information, check out our Web site at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com).**

# Second Front

## HCWA re-elects officers to continue service in 2014

During its January meeting, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) Board of Directors re-elected its slate of officers to continue service in their current capacity for 2014. Authority Chairman Jimmy Carter is accompanied by Vice-Chairman Rick Jeffares and



The five members of the HCWA Board of Directors, including the slate of officers, begin their second consecutive year in service together. Board members (left to right) Rick Jeffares, as Vice Chairman, Harold Jenkins, Jimmy Carter, as Chairman, Carlotta Harrell, as Secretary-Treasurer, and Mike Barr, are shown here being sworn in during the January 2013 meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Carlotta Harrell on this year's slate of HCWA officers. Kimberly Turner Osborne also will serve again as Clerk of the Authority in 2014.

James C. Carter, Jr., who joined the HCWA Board in 2005, has served as the Authority's Chairman since 2011. He is a sixth generation native of Henry County, whose family owns and operates Southern Belle Farm in McDonough.

Rick Jeffares is the owner of J&T Environmental Services, with years of professional experience in the water industry. He also is the current Georgia State Senator for District 17.

Carlotta Harrell has served as a Project Manager for The Georgia Conference of Black Mayors (GCBM) for the last several years, in addition to working previously as a consultant with more than 20 years of experience in Law Enforcement in Georgia.

Finally, Harold Jenkins and Mike Barr join Carlotta Harrell as HCWA Members who are beginning their second year on the Authority Board.

The five-member HCWA Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Authority Headquarters at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough.

## Henry County Water celebrates the 41-year career of Mike Craig

His general manager kiddingly refers to him as one of the "Last of the Mohicans," an endearing reference to a career that began when he was the seventh employee hired at the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA), which is one of the largest water utilities in Georgia today, with more than 200 employees and 50,000 customers.

Mike Craig received a respected utility veteran's farewell at the February HCWA Board Meeting and reception that followed, honoring his 41 years of service to the Authority and its customers, as well as Lifetime Membership in the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP).

During his 41 years at Henry County Water, Craig worked in operations for both water and sewer services. He retired as Manager of Industrial Monitoring, but not before mentoring Jim Brinkman, HCWA Manager of Sewer Maintenance.

"It has been an honor to work

with Mike and learn from him, especially since he has mentored me to become a better manager at the Authority," says Brinkman. "I'm sure I will continue to call upon him for advice in the future."

Well before he attained his role as manager of the utility's industrial pretreatment program, Craig started out putting in gaskets and laying water lines in Henry County. He was later asked to assist with the growing operations on the sewer side of the HCWA system, eventually earning certification as a wastewater plant operator.

"I started on the ground level at the Authority, the lowest position you could have," says the McDonough native with a laugh. "But through all of the good times and challenges, I couldn't ask for better people to work with, especially Lindy Farmer as our General Manager. I'm proud to have served my community for 41 years as a water professional," says Craig.



During his retirement reception, Mike Craig (foreground right) receives some humorous roasting from Jim Brinkman (foreground left), HCWA Manager of Sewer Maintenance and recipient of Craig's mentoring. General Manager Lindy Farmer (far left) and Deputy Manager Gary Mayo (far right) also join in the celebration of Craig's 41 years of service at Henry County Water.

## Check those sprinkler systems for leaks!

When the warmer temperatures arrive this spring, bringing with them increased outdoor water use, please be mindful that your sprinkler/irrigation system may have been damaged from previous freezing winter temperatures. To make sure this hasn't caused a water leak and excess water use, check your metered water consumption and the control panel of your irrigation system.

For more information, contact HCWA customer service at 770-957-6659.



State Senator Rick Jeffares (right), recognizes Union Grove Middle School student Maggie Coughlin (center), joined by her father Ted (left), as the Henry County winner of the 2013 Essay Contest on water conservation, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

## HCWA recognizes Essay Contest winner

During the January meeting of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA), the utility's leadership recognized a talented young student from Union Grove Middle School for her writing acumen on the topic of water conservation.

Maggie Coughlin was the Henry County winner of the 2013 Essay Contest sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD). Her paper titled: "World's Scariest Movie: A Day Without Water" was one of more than 1,000 essays submitted by middle school students from the 15 metropolitan counties and 90 cities that make up the District.

In addition to being recognized by the HCWA Board, Coughlin and the other 14 county winners were honored during a reception in November at the State Capitol. They received a \$100 award as champions of the 12th annual MNGWPD Essay Contest.

## ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter  
Rick Jeffares  
Carlotta Harrell  
Harold Jenkins  
Mike Barr

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Member  
Member

Lindy D. Farmer, Jr.  
General Manager  
Kimberly Turner  
Osborne  
Clerk

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