



HCWSA Currents



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

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HCWSA recognized among best sewer systems in the state

The fall conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) featured a number of educational sessions and the presentation of industry awards, with the HCWSA playing prominent roles in both, including the industry's top honor for sewer collection systems.

The highlight of the GAWP fall conference for Henry County Water was winning the statewide Sewer Collection System Gold Award, which requires a score of 95 percent or higher on the utility's collection system audit conducted by GAWP industry judges.

The judging criteria for the GAWP Collection System Gold Award included a comprehensive review of the Authority's programs in Management,



Receiving the Sewer Collection System Gold Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals on behalf of the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) were (left to right): Jim Brinkman, Transitional Department Manager for Industrial Monitoring and Sewer Line Maintenance, Kenny Love, Assistant Water and Sewer Operations Manager, Vicki Mott, Administrative Coordinator, Mike Craig, Department Manager for Industrial Monitoring and Sewer Line Maintenance, Tonja Halton-Mincey, Environmental Specialist, and Ray Sanders, Water and Sewer Operations Manager.

Maintenance, Operations, and Capacity.

In addition to bringing home the GAWP Collection System Gold Award, the HCWSA also received recognition for publishing the state's best Water Quality Report, which is the document sent each summer to all Authority customers to explain what is in their drinking water and why.

During the GAWP fall conference, HCWSA employees also were among the featured speakers during industry technical sessions.

Patrick Kelley, HCWSA Project Engineer, led a seminar on "Prioritizing Waterline Projects within a Limited Budget" and Eric Osborne, HCWSA Water Production Manager, shared insights on "Fluoride Testing Methods."

HCWSA General Manager honored for 30 years of service

He's the longest tenured chief executive of any water utility in the state of Georgia; thus, Lindy Farmer's leadership as General Manager of the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) has been felt far beyond the borders of his home county. The Henry County Board of Commissioners noted such during the presentation of a Proclamation in his honor during its December Regular Public Meeting.

While reading the Proclamation honoring Farmer's 30 years of service as general manager of the HCWSA, Henry County District I Commissioner Warren Holder added: "the Water Authority is among the best in the state and region, largely because of Lindy's leadership and

the vision of the many board members and others he has worked with through the years."

Farmer joined the HCWSA as its first general manager on March 1, 1982. Upon his arrival, he went to work providing the Authority with structure, in addition to leading the pursuit of some of the most critical capital projects for the Authority and County to date. Those included the construction of approximately 1,200 miles of water lines and 600 miles of sewer lines, as well as all five of the Authority's reservoirs, all four of the Authority's wastewater plants, and most recently, the Authority's Tussahaw Water Treatment Facility, which opened in 2007.

During Farmer's tenure, the HCWSA has been recognized as having the



The Henry County Board of Commissioners honor the 30 years of service provided by HCWSA General Manager Lindy Farmer (center with Proclamation), who was joined by officials from the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority, during the December Commission Meeting.

Best Operated Water and Wastewater Plants in Georgia, as well as the state's Best Water Distribution System and Sewer Collection System, the latter as recently as this year.

Farmer received the Southeast Regional Award of Merit in 2008 from the Association of State Dam Safety

Officials (ASDSO) in Indian Wells, California, in addition to lifetime membership in the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, which is the highest industry honor bestowed upon the state's water professionals. Henry County is a "WaterFirst" Community in Georgia and an EPA "WaterSense"

promotional partner, both as a result of his leadership.

"I feel honored and privileged to work in a career field that I truly enjoy and in a community that I have grown up in and have always called home," said Farmer, following the presentation of the County Proclamation in his honor.

Tussahaw Reservoir remains open for winter fishing, too

The 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 select dates, providing local anglers once again with an

extended fishing season at Henry County Water. The 2013 regular fishing season will begin on March 1.

The dates for winter fishing in 2013 at the HCWSA Tussahaw Reservoir include:

- January 4-6, 2013
- January 18-20, 2013
- February 1-3, 2013
- February 15-17, 2013

In order to fish the Tussahaw Reservoir this winter, anglers must be a Henry County property owner or resident with an

active HCWSA reservoir use permit. Reservoir use permits are available for \$45 (\$25 for seniors and citizens with disabilities) at the Authority's headquarters during the normal customer service hours of

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

According to Authority officials, more than 1,200 reservoir use permits were sold during 2012.

For more information on public fishing, visit the Authority's Web site at www.hcwsa.com.

Second Front

HCWSA hosts more than 3,000 'Cubihatcha Kids' this year

The Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) welcomed 3,081 third grade students and teachers for field trips at its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center during a two-week period in October.

This year's event marked the 10th anniversary of these annual field trips, which are organized by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, a local non-profit formed by the HCWSA, the Henry County Board of Education, the Henry County Board of Commissioners, as well as other local and state agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals.

To date, approximately 30,000 students have taken part in this annual event since its inception in 2003.

The mission of the field trips to the Cubihatcha



Left: Valerie Suessmith (left), Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Henry County Board of Education, demonstrates eating habits of owls during the annual third grade field trips at the HCWSA Cubihatcha Outdoor Center. Right: Tonja Halton Mincey (standing behind students), HCWSA Environmental Specialist, teaches a class on the local water distribution system and the physics of gravity flow.



Center is to provide opportunities for experiential or "hands-on" learning for students in the field of science, while enhancing their appreciation of natural resources and their knowledge of the importance of conservation, preservation, and environmental stewardship.

This year's Cubihatcha faculty included the following individuals sharing lessons on a wide

range of topics such as:

- Mike Sapp of the Georgia Forestry Commission teaching a class on forest fires.
- Kevin Godbee of the Georgia Forestry Commission teaching a class on wildlife.
- Eddie Dunn, a retiree from the sawmill industry, teaching a class on trees.
- Annie Huff, with Henry County Stormwater Management,

teaching a class on water-sheds.

- Kaye Sheets, science chair at Patrick Henry Academy, teaching a class on habitats.
- Valerie Suessmith, Greg Benton, and J.D. Hardin, with the Board of Education, teaching a class about owls.
- Tonja Halton-Mincey, with Henry County Water, discussing the cycle of water.
- Doug Martin, with

Henry County Water, teaching a class on fishing and fish habitat.

- Henry County 4-H hosting its popular H2Olympics.
- Additional classes of outdoor recreation held on the banks of HCWSA reservoirs.

For the complete story and photo gallery of this year's field trips at the Cubihatcha Center, log onto our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.

Henry County Rivers Alive provides watershed protection

Volunteers came together to make quick work of cleaning local waterways during the 2012 Henry County Rivers Alive. Event organizers welcomed 75 students and adults who cleaned up 800 pounds of trash and debris from the banks of the Indian Creek River and Gardner Reservoir, which is one

of five drinking water resources owned and operated by the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA).

The HCWSA partnered with Henry County Stormwater Management and Strong Rock Christian School to host this community event.

Henry County's

annual cleanup is affiliated with Georgia Rivers Alive – a statewide effort to create awareness of, and involvement in, the preservation of Georgia's natural resources.

For the complete story and photo gallery of this year's Rivers Alive, log onto our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.



The group of volunteers from the 2012 Henry County Rivers Alive collected 800 pounds of trash and debris at the Gardner Reservoir.

Protect your pipes from freezing: winterize now

The HCWSA encourages its customers to winterize their homes to prevent exposed valves, pipes, or irrigation systems from freezing. Consider these tips:

- Insulate your pipes with wraps or tapes.
- Add insulation to your water heater.
- Drain your irrigation system, since the tips of sprinkler heads

often hold water even when inactive.

- Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor water faucets, allowing water to drain completely.
- After disconnecting and draining garden hoses, store them in a warmer location.
- If a faucet is not frost free, find the shut-off valve of the pipe

that feeds the faucet and turn it off. Then, open the outside faucet until it drains completely.

- Winterize your AC as well, by draining all air conditioner pipes and hoses. You may want to remove your window air conditioning units altogether during the winter.
- Clean gutters, so winter rains and melting snow

can drain.

- Should a pipe burst due to freezing or any other circumstance, know how to shut off your main water line servicing your property.

For the complete story on winterization, including links for more information and additional tips, log onto the Authority's Web site at www.hcwsa.com.

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