



HCWSA Currents



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

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HCWSA helping to keep local Rivers Alive!

Henry County Rivers Alive is one of the largest and most effective annual river cleanups in the state of Georgia, thanks to the efforts of local volunteers, including this year's organizers from Henry County Stormwater Management, the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA), and Strong Rock Christian School.

The 2012 Henry County Rivers Alive is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Indian Creek/Gardner Reservoir, with volunteers gathering at Strong Rock for a short hay ride to the site of the cleanup.

The event date has changed to Oct. 13, from a previously announced date the weekend prior. This year's cleanup site is ideal for a Rivers Alive event,



Last year, Georgia Rivers Alive included 242 cleanup events across the state, with a documented 28,837 volunteers responsible for collecting 18,811 bags of trash that accounted for 699,790 pounds of garbage removed from 1,783 miles of streams, rivers, and other waterways.

say organizers, since Indian Creek and the surrounding areas of the Gardner Reservoir receive surface water runoff that provides the source for raw water used in drinking water production for HCWSA customers. Henry County's five

drinking water reservoirs, owned and operated by the HCWSA, also provide opportunities for outdoor education and recreation.

Those who pre-register for the event will receive a free Rivers Alive t-shirt while supplies last, as well as lunch following the

cleanup and free fishing on the banks of the reservoir from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rivers Alive is Georgia's annual cleanup event that targets all waterways in the state, including streams, lakes or reservoirs, beaches, and wetlands, in addition to rivers. The mission of Rivers Alive is to create awareness of, and involvement in, the preservation of Georgia's natural/water resources.

For event insights, log onto www.hcwsa.com or www.henrycountystormwater.com; or for more information on Rivers Alive or how you can help protect our drinking water resources, contact Tonja Halton-Mincey with Henry County Water at 678-583-3810, or Henry County Stormwater Management at 770-288-RAIN.

The 'Cubihatcha Kids' are coming

The HCWSA will host more than 3,000 Henry County 3rd grade students and teachers from 28 Elementary Schools for field trips at its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center during the two-week period from Oct. 17 – Oct. 29, 2012.

These annual field trips for Henry County elementary school students are organized by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, a local 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 2001 by the HCWSA, the Henry County Board of Education and Board of Commissioners, as well as other public and private entities and individuals.

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

science. The "Cubihatcha Kids" will spend their allotted day during the field trips exploring topics like the ecology of watersheds, characteristics of water, the role of reservoirs, stormwater runoff and pollution, and the wildlife that populate the area.

The HCWSA Cubihatcha Center in Locust Grove was constructed to coincide with the Authority's wetlands mitigation plan that accompanied the construction of its reservoir network. The facility opened in 2003, to serve as a focal point for public outreach and education.

To date, over 27,000 "Cubihatcha Kids" have participated in these annual field trips at the Cubihatcha Center, through the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

For more information on the HCWSA Cubihatcha Center, log onto www.hcwsa.com.



More than 3,000 Henry County 3rd graders and teachers from 28 Elementary Schools will participate in the annual field trips at the Cubihatcha Center this year.

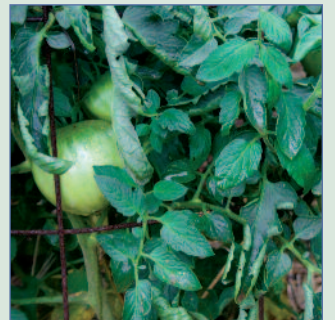
HCWSA cultivates 'community' with garden

When the Cubihatcha Outdoor Center of the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) opened in 2003, a like-minded group was forming across town that same year with a similar goal in mind – cultivate a sense of "community" in Henry County.

Two years later, these two organizations united their cause by forming a community garden at Cubihatcha, which has since harvested thousands of pounds of food – not to mention help and hope – for families in need.

This little known amenity at the HCWSA Cubihatcha Center is aptly named Cubihatcha Helping Harvests, to reflect its intent to grow food solely to help people in Henry County, or more specifically, those served through the Helping in His Name Food Pantry in Stockbridge.

The Cubihatcha community garden is planted and harvested, typically twice annually, by Community Gardens of Henry County, Inc. The 10,000 square foot, plant-a-row garden at the Cubihatcha Center in Locust Grove is one of six community gardens operated by Community Gardens of



Tomatoes are among the vegetables grown at the HCWSA Cubihatcha Center's community garden.

Henry County.

The most recent Cubihatcha Helping Harvest resulted in 3,126 pounds of produce being donated to the Food Pantry this summer. The Cubihatcha garden is generously tended by local volunteers who include scouts, church members, master gardeners, and other gardening enthusiasts. Last year, Cubihatcha Helping Harvests produced tomatoes and corn, while this year volunteers added potatoes, peppers and beans to the fold.

More information about Community Gardens of Henry County is available online at <http://henrygardens.com>.

HCWSA hosts special guests for Kayaking Field Day

Continuing its mission to provide opportunities for outdoor education, recreation, and public involvement in environmental stewardship, the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) recently welcomed a special kind of field trip to its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center on the Long Branch Reservoir. Instructors joined enthusiasts with special needs to experience the uplifting power of paddling.

The third annual Kayaking Field Day, organized by Paddle 4 Tomorrow for Henry County Special Olympics and special needs citizens, welcomed approximately 200 participants, sponsors, and volunteers for a day of paddling and fishing, but more importantly, a time for shedding the constraints of mental and/or physical limitations.

One of the initial objectives of the event, according to officials from Paddle 4 Tomorrow, is to give those who



(L to R) Jaime Guadalupe and Zach Yurchuck, from Paddle 4 Tomorrow, take Koda Law, 20, on his first ride in a kayak during the Henry County Special Olympics Kayaking Field Day at the HCWSA Cubihatcha Center and Long Branch Reservoir. Photo by Lisa Vaughn.

wouldn't normally have a chance to kayak the opportunity to do so. Tony Narcisse, President and Chairman of the Board for Paddle 4 Tomorrow, adds that the Kayaking Field Day impacts participants far beyond the expected benefits of outdoor recreation.

"This is a very special event, because we see it as a demonstration of the power of the human spirit

and the very best of what community is all about," says Narcisse. "By paddling kayaks, those with physical or mental challenges are whisked away from those barriers; and in doing so, everyone involved in the event is uplifted."

Ken Pressley, a Naturalist Supervisor for the HCWSA, says the Authority was approached more than three years ago by Doug Laverty, Paddle



Students in the honors program and Beta Club from Union Grove Middle School join Patrick Harmon to assist Caroline Ham (center) with fishing during the third annual Kayaking Field Day at the HCWSA Cubihatcha Center and Long Branch Reservoir. Photo by Lisa Vaughn.

4 Tomorrow Special Olympics Program Director, with an idea to host a Kayaking Field Day for local citizens with disabilities and Special Olympians from Henry County. The quality and proximity of the HCWSA's Cubihatcha Center and Long Branch Reservoir made for an ideal site to host such an event.

Additional sponsors of the Kayaking Field Day

included the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department's Therapeutic Recreation Division, the Henry County Sheriff's Department, the Georgia Kayak Fishing Foundation, Shane's Rib Shack, Design Packaging, Inc., Cannon Cleveland Funeral Directors, Troy Logistics, and Hurricane Kayaks.

See more event photos at www.hcwsa.com.

Steering clear of the FOG

According to officials from the Georgia Clean Water Campaign, fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are the number one cause of sewer system blockages that lead to sewer spills and overflows. As a result, FOG related spills and overflows can cause property damage, harm to the environment, and can result in fines and penalties from regulatory agencies.

However, customers of the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) can help prevent clogs to their own plumbing, blockages in the local sewer system and subsequent damage to property and the environment, by simply disposing of their household FOG properly.

Some helpful tips for steering clear of the FOG include:

- Rather than pouring grease or

similar materials down the drain, allow them to cool, pour them into a sealed container, and place them in the trash.

- Scrape any solid food or FOG from plates and dishware directly into the trash, prior to hand washing or placing in the dishwasher.



- Use a paper towel to wipe any remaining FOG residue into the trash as well.

- Consider using a sink strainer that will catch any food particles that may be left on dishware

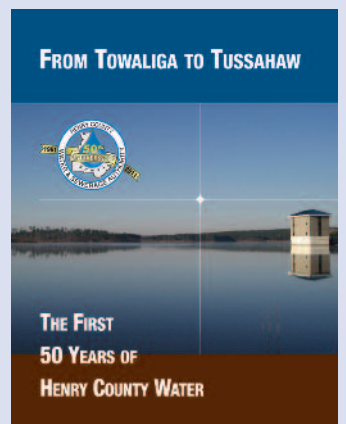
and then place these food scraps in the trash.

For more information on how to protect your plumbing, the HCWSA sewer system, and our environment, log onto the Clean Water Campaign's Web site at www.cleanwatercampaign.com.

HCWSA History Book tells the story of utility's first 50 years

The Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) has published a history book titled "From Towaliga to Tussahaw – the First 50 Years of Henry County Water," which is available on the Authority's Web site at www.hcwsa.com. The book was written in part to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Authority, which was celebrated during 2011.

The story of Henry County Water is broken into highlights of the first five decades of its history, with commentary from a number of key individuals who played critical roles in the development of one of the leading water and sewer utilities in the industry. The history book also includes an outline of key capital projects that have been completed by



the Authority through the years, as well as an overview of those Henry County leaders who have served on the HCWSA Board of Directors.

The history of the HCWSA offers an informative and reflective look at the "how and why" HCWSA has become the utility it is today.

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