

Currents



Tasting Water



News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

Cast your line and have a great time: Javors Lucas Lake opening for public fishing

The MWA will kick off its 2012 public fishing season at Javors Lucas Lake – its drinking water reservoir – during the first weekend in March. The season will last until the end of October, though the schedule will vary from month to month, including the reservoir being closed during July and August.

Fishing on Javors Lucas Lake also will be available on Monday May 28, 2012 for Memorial Day, as well as Wednesday, July 4, for the 4th of July holiday, and Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.

Sunday October 28, 2012 will be the last day of public fishing on Javors Lucas Lake this year. The lake will be closed for fishing during the months of November and December, as well as during the months of January and February, 2013.

The MWA charges a nominal fee for parking and access to Javors Lucas Lake by local anglers, to offset the costs for security and oversight of recreation on the reservoir. The parking fee for fishing is \$5 per vehicle for those fishing on the

The Authority has announced the following dates and times of operation for its 2012 public fishing schedule at Javors Lucas Lake:

March 2 – April 1
Open Fridays – Sundays
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

April 5 – May 27
Open Thursdays – Sundays
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

June 1 – July 1
Open Fridays – Sundays
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

July 2 – August 30
Javors Lucas Lake Closed

August 31 – September 30
Open Fridays – Sundays
6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

October 5 – October 28
Open Fridays – Sundays
6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

shore, and \$10 for vehicles with a boat. A seasonal pass is available for \$100.

While fishing on Javors Lucas Lake, the number of guests per boat is limited to its rated capacity, and boats accessing the reser-



Javors Lucas Lake is the Macon Water Authority's drinking water reservoir, but it doubles as an ideal site for catching a variety of fish, including bream, bass, and catfish (above).

voir are limited to those propelled by paddles, oars, or electric motors. No gas or diesel powered boats are allowed.

Fishing on Javors Lucas Lake is governed by the guidelines laid out by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Resources Division, and the MWA reserves the right to close the reservoir on an allotted fishing day, without prior notice, in the event of an emergency or for maintenance or operations.

Javors Lucas Lake was dedicated in November of 2006 for long-time MWA Board Member and Vice-Chairman Javors J. Lucas. The MWA drinking water reservoir holds an estimated 6.5 billion gallons of water at normal full pool, providing the ideal habitat for a variety of fish.

For details on MWA fishing rates, rules, and regulations, as well as directions to Javors Lucas Lake, check out our Web site at www.maconwater.org. And for more information on public fishing at Javors Lucas Lake, contact Gary McCoy, MWA Director of Water, at 478-464-5653 or gmcocoy@maconwater.org.

Rags, similar objects can damage MWA sewer system

The MWA is asking for help to stop the disposal of rags and other inappropriate objects into its sewer system.

Rags and other items disposed of improperly within the MWA system can damage sewer pumping equipment and impede pumping operations at the Authority's lift stations and wastewater treatment facilities. They clog system pumps, requiring them to be removed manually to make the pumps operational. Such clogging hinders the efficiency of pumps, which subsequently causes back-ups and high wet-well levels. The resulting sewer system overflows are serious hazards to public health and the environment.

Your assistance is needed to stop the practice of placing rags, towels, cleaning wipes, feminine hygiene products, as well as objects such as rope, buckets, boots, coveralls, and old clothing,



When rags and similar items are improperly disposed of within the MWA system, they can negatively impact sewer pumping equipment and operations at the Authority's lift stations and wastewater treatment facilities, such as the Lower Poplar Plant (above).

into the MWA sewer system. Please be sure to dispose of these items in the garbage, and make sure all floor drains within your home or business are protected with grating.

Vandalism also is a cause of

some of these objects entering the MWA system, as manhole lids are taken off and items are thrown into these openings to the Authority's wastewater collection system. If you should notice a manhole with a missing lid,

please notify the Authority by calling or emailing appropriate MWA personnel listed on the "Report a Problem" link/page of the Authority's Web site at www.maconwater.org.

The MWA Rules Governing the Use of Public Sewers that prohibit the disposal of rags and other inappropriate objects in the sewer system are based on U.S. EPA regulations, which state that any actions that result in damages to a public sewer system can bring serious consequences to the offender.

For more information on the impact of rags and similar objects on the MWA sewer system, and how you may be able to help us protect our infrastructure, our water quality, and our environment, contact Heather Veal, CMOM Coordinator for the MWA, at 478-464-5669 or hveal@maconwater.org.

SECOND FRONT

MWA and CES wrapping up Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES)

The Macon Water Authority (MWA), with help from Compliance EnviroSystems (CES), is gathering some valuable data about the status of its sewer system, which will assist in identifying the future maintenance and rehabilitation needs of this infrastructure. The Authority and CES entered into an agreement in the summer of 2010 to implement a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) to do just that.

Crews from CES and the MWA are wrapping up work on the SSES in the Tobesofkee



Crews from Compliance EnviroSystems (CES) are inspecting manholes throughout the MWA sewer system as a part of the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) they are conducting on behalf of the Authority.

Basin, conducting smoke testing of sewer lines within this area of the MWA system. Smoke testing is a helpful diagnostic tool to locate incidents of Inflow and Infiltration (I and I), which are cases where unnecessary ground water is captured in the collection system, resulting in increased treatment costs for the Authority.

As the SSES project wraps up this winter, CES and MWA crews have installed flow monitors throughout the MWA service area within both the Echeconnee and Tobesofkee basins. In the Echeconnee Basin, smoke testing has been done, manholes have been inspected, and maps have been updated. CCTV and cleaning have been performed in this basin as well.

After completing their work in the Echeconnee Basin, MWA and CES crews then moved on to the Tobesofkee Basin, where they currently are working on smoke testing and the final manhole inspections for the area, followed by CCTV and cleaning, based on those test results.

At the conclusion of the SSES, the MWA will be able to better determine the structural integrity of sewer lines in these basins, while prioritizing those parts of the system in need of maintenance and/or rehabilitation. (In fact, now that the SSES has been completed

in the Echeconnee Basin, the MWA Board of Directors has approved nearly \$1.9 million worth of sewer system rehabilitation and repairs identified in the study.)

For more information on SSES work, including smoke testing that may be conducted in your area, contact Heather Veal, CMOM Coordinator, at 478-464-5669 or hveal@maconwater.org, as well as Darryl Macy, Manager of Sewer Collection and Water Distribution, at 478-464-5673 or dmacy@maconwater.org.



Smoke testing is a critical step during the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) to identify possible incidents of Inflow and Infiltration within the MWA system.

Authority Accolades, Retiree Resolutions

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) has had much to celebrate during its most recent Board Meetings, with several individuals and organizations being honored for their service and support on a number of fronts.

First, the Authority recognized two retirees by passing Resolutions in their honor. Herman

Wilburn retired as the Interim Director of Wastewater Operations after 31 years of service to the Authority and its customers, while Terry Rice retired as Assistant Manager of the Water Distribution Department following 32 years at the Authority. Both men are highly thought of by their peers as professionals with

high character who provided a wealth of knowledge and experience to the utility's operations, says Tony Rojas, Executive Director of the MWA.

The Authority Board also honored the sponsors of the annual Ocmulgee Alive during a recent meeting, as YKK USA and Graphic Packaging International were praised for their support of this annual river cleanup.

The presentation honoring the Ocmulgee Alive sponsors preceded a visit by Jack Dozier, Executive Director of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), who presented industry awards to the MWA for system, program, and individual achievements. Headlining the industry



Herman Wilburn (center, with his wife Peggy) received congratulations from MWA Chairman Frank Amerson (left) and Vice-Chairman Javors Lucas (right).



Terry Rice (center) receives a Resolution in his honor from the MWA Board of Directors.

awards, the MWA was presented with the Gold Award for its Sewer Collection and Conveyance System, which is the highest honor for sewer systems in the state. In addition, Dozier presented the Authority with the Best Innovative Initiative Award for its annual Kids

Fishing Derby, as well as a Certificate of Distinguished Achievement for the annual Ocmulgee Alive river cleanup. Though not present at the MWA meeting in January, Ray Sanders was recognized as the Authority's latest inductee into the GAWP Golden Manhole Society.

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