



MWA customers enjoy flexible outdoor watering

But changes in 2011 rates and methodology will impact heavy water users

As a result of the Georgia Water Stewardship Act, which went into effect last summer, Macon Water Authority (MWA) customers are enjoying a more flexible and relaxed outdoor watering schedule.

Currently, MWA customers may water their landscapes daily from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. the next morning.

Daily outdoor watering of landscapes is defined as watering for the purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants.

Outdoor water use for any purposes other than for watering landscapes must adhere to an odd-even system.

The MWA encourages its customers to be careful not to over-water, but water wisely and only when landscapes need it. Some helpful outdoor watering tips:

- Water during the early morning hours, when the air is coolest and winds are calmest.
- Water deeply to encourage root growth, without soaking landscapes below the root zone, which is unnecessary and wasteful. (Note: if you can grab a handful of soil an inch deep and squeeze water out of it, then it is overwatered.)
- Aim sprinklers at the lawn, rather than at streets or sidewalks, and avoid watering to the point when water runs off the landscape.

- Take advantage of rain events and cease watering during these times.

- Water problem areas or hard to reach places by hand.

The MWA reminds customers that this year's water/sewer bills will be impacted by slight increases in consumption charges, but more noticeably by the new methodology used to calculate sewer bills.

Previously, the MWA determined sewer rates according to a fixed monthly average of sewer use from the eight lowest months during the past year. This year, MWA sewer rates are based on 80% of that current month's water consumption. Thus, as outdoor watering

increases, so too does a customer's water AND sewer bill.

The MWA also reminds its customers that water/sewer consumption charges, in addition to the methodology for calculating monthly sewer bills, changed in January of 2011. This year, the MWA has increased its water volume/consumption charges by 10 cents per hundred cubic feet (CCF) and its sewer volume/consumption charges by 15 cents per CCF.

For a complete overview of the current outdoor water use rules, log onto www.gaepd.org. For additional outdoor watering tips, log onto www.conservewatergeorgia.net, or check out the public information and links on the Authority's Web site at www.maconwater.org.

MWA to host Kids Fishing Derby June 4 at Javors Lucas Lake

Academy Sports & Outdoors again signs on as premier sponsor



Young anglers age 16 and under are invited to take part in the Macon Water Authority's (MWA) annual Kids Fishing Derby, to be held Saturday June 4, at Javors Lucas Lake. Academy Sports & Outdoors once again will be serving as the premier sponsor of the event. The Derby registration opens at 7:30 a.m., with the weigh-in for the competition beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year on one of the days that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designates as a free fishing day, when anglers can fish Georgia waters without a permit. The state agency offers these permit-free days a few times each season to encourage citizen enjoyment of the outdoors and the sport of fishing.

The Kids Fishing Derby will offer a friendly competition between participants in four age group categories (3-5, 6-9, 10-13, and 14-16) who will be vying for first, second, and third place prizes for the biggest catch in their division. The contest also will award the "biggest



catch of the day" that will be given to the Derby's overall winner.

Participants must be accompanied by a parent or attending adult, who may also fish in designated areas for free during the day. However, children participating in the Derby must catch their own fish to enter into the competition.

The two primary ponds where the Derby will be held will be stocked with a variety of fish, as Javors Lucas Lake is noted for a healthy population of bass, bream, and catfish. Attendees must bring their own fishing poles, bait and tackle. Guests should

access Lucas Lake via Broach Lane off of Upper River Road.

The MWA and the many event sponsors in addition to Academy Sports will be providing giveaways and prizes for those attending, in addition to the gifts for the winning participants in the Derby. Lunch and refreshments also will be provided, and admission is free.

For more information on the 2011 Kids Fishing Derby, including features of Javors Lucas Lake, citizens can log onto the MWA Web site at www.maconwater.org, or contact the Authority at 478-256-9363 or 478-256-9407.





Georgia Association of Water Professionals President Tyler Richards (right) presents the Macon Water Authority's Dale Johnson with the Wastewater Plant Top Operator award for the state's District 5.

MWA employee selected as Top Wastewater Plant Operator

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) not only served as a gracious host for the 2011 Spring Conference & Expo of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), but several of its employees also led technical sessions on various topics, while one brought home an industry award for his outstanding performance.

Dale Johnson, a shift leader at the Authority's Rocky Creek Water Reclamation Facility, was selected by the GAWP as the Wastewater Plant Top Op winner from

District 5.

As for those MWA employees leading or assisting with technical sessions during the conference program, Mark Cloutier, MWA Maintenance Manager, spoke on what asset management means to the Authority, while Kate Kubesheski and Larry Reynolds, who are both former Wastewater Plant Top Operators in Georgia like Johnson, offered a presentation on wastewater energy efficiency, citing the Authority's Rocky Creek and Lower Poplar Street Water

Reclamation Facilities as examples.

The Authority's Mark Wyzalek, Director of Laboratory/Environmental Compliance, offered insights on what the Georgia Chapter of the Water Environment Federation Nutrient Planning Group could offer to GAWP members. Finally, MWA crews from the sewer conveyance department provided a demonstration of how the Authority's televising truck locates instances of inflow and infiltration within the MWA sewer system.

Authority honors three water professionals upon retirement

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) Board of Directors recently honored three retiring professionals from its employee ranks, and the local water utility will be hard pressed to replace their 50 years of combined industry experience.

Melissa Thorpe has retired after 17 years of service as the Authority's Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Thorpe came to the Authority at the time of one of Macon's greatest natural disasters – the 1994 flood. Her work was instrumental in the Authority successfully receiving all of the financial aid it was due from federal and state government agencies, as a result of the flood, notes MWA Chairman Frank Amerson, who was at the forefront of those efforts as well. Thanks to her leadership, the Authority also



Melissa Thorpe (center) receives a proclamation in her honor from the MWA Board of Directors, following her 17 years of service as the Authority's Chief Financial Officer.



Mack Jones (center), former Manager of Macon Soils pictured with his wife Sherril, and Stan Shear (right), former Assistant Maintenance Manager, were honored by the MWA Board of Directors during the March meeting for their "dedicated and distinguished service" to the Authority, its customers, and the community.

received a Certificate of Achievement for

Excellence in Financial Reporting

from the Government Finance Officers Association for the past 13 years.

Stan Shear recently retired as an Assistant Maintenance Manager at the MWA, following 21 years of service. Shear was commended for his skills as a craftsman, who helped solve countless problems in maintenance and operations for the Authority, with a positive attitude and willingness to mentor fellow employees with less experience.

Finally, Mack Jones has retired after 12 years as the Manager of Macon Soils, which is a subsidiary of the MWA that handles the environmentally sensitive recycling and reuse of biosolids.

All three water professionals were applauded for their dedicated and distinguished service to the MWA, its customers, and the citizens of Macon/Bibb County.

Detours in place around MWA Headquarters

Due to a construction project on storm water infrastructure downtown, Second Street will be closed from Pine Street to Hemlock, and possibly even down further to Oglethorpe Street, until further notice. Customers driving to the MWA Albert Billingslea Headquarters on Second Street will have to follow detours to get to the building.

Those coming to the MWA Headquarters on Second Street (from Riverside or I-75/I-16 from the east) will want to take Pine Street to Third Street (south), turn RIGHT on Third Street, then RIGHT on Oak/Hemlock.

Those coming from the south on Hwy. 247/Broadway should follow it until it becomes MLK, then take a LEFT onto Oak Street, which becomes Hemlock at the next block.

Those coming from Mercer University or I-75 South should proceed south on Oglethorpe, turn LEFT onto Third Street and then LEFT three blocks down (past Arch and Hemlock St. Lane) on Hemlock Street.

For updates, contact the MWA at 478-464-5600, or log onto the MWA Web site news and links at www.maconwater.org.

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