

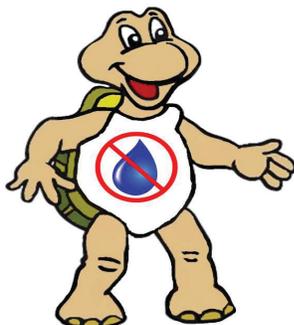


**Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Spring 2017**

**Cobb Continues in a Drought Response Level 2**

On March 2, 2017, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division lowered the drought response level from 2 to 1 for many of the 56 counties in the original declaration. Cobb County is one of the 12 counties still remaining in drought level 2. In fact most of the metropolitan Atlanta utilities dependent upon the Chattahoochee River and Lake Lanier are still in a drought response level 2. You may wonder, how we could still be in drought after we received some rain this winter? The actual amount of rainfall may surprise you. Despite some rain in December, Cobb ended 2016 17-inches below normal. In 2017, January’s rainfall was slightly above average but February was significantly below average and we have failed to make up for the 17-inch deficit and are currently an additional 1.5-inches behind for the year.

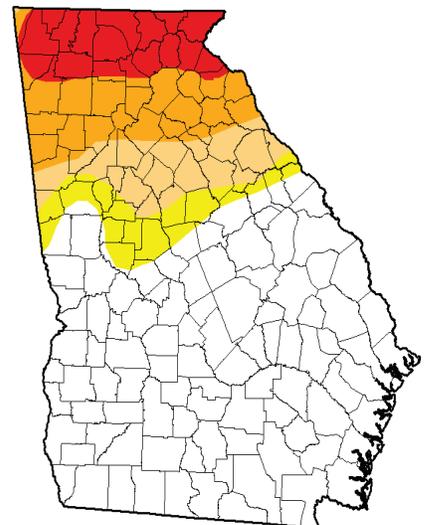
Cobb County remains in a severe drought designation according to the US Drought Monitor. February is typically Georgia’s wettest month of the year, with the cooler weather allowing rainfall to recharge water bodies. This year rainfall in February was more than 2-inches below normal, and it was exceptionally warm. Unseasonably warm weather causes plants to bloom early and those plants have an increased water need that competes for the limited rainfall. This reduces how much water returns to water bodies to recharge base flow. Add to this that Lake Lanier has an extremely small drainage area and rainfall in that basin has also been significantly lower than in the rest of the state. You can see why it was necessary to continue the level 2 drought response. Information on the current drought status and rules can be found at [www.cobbcounty.org/outdoorwateringrestrictions](http://www.cobbcounty.org/outdoorwateringrestrictions).



**Upcoming Events**

For a full schedule of Cobb Water Efficiency Programs or to schedule a civic or school presentation visit <http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffEvents>, email [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) or call 770-419-6244

**Pizza and a Premiere** - Come join us at the Premiere of the Finalists in the **H2O in HD Video Contest**- Thursday, April 28, 2017, at the Cobb County Water Lab Training Room. Starting at 6PM. We will have free pizza and refreshments. The winners will be awarded at this event. *RSVP Required.* Email [gwen.baldwin@cobbcounty.org](mailto:gwen.baldwin@cobbcounty.org).



US Drought Map March 7, 2017

## Education Update

Over the winter we have had the opportunity to visit with a number of middle schools to discuss global water scarcity with our Water Around the World program, and also to discuss local water resource management and the current drought right here in Georgia. Many students were surprised to hear that, despite some winter rains, we are still in a Level 2 drought, and they were interested to learn about the different factors that affect drought levels.

This spring we look forward to finishing up our first year of the Fourth-Grade Series programs. We had five schools participate in the series this year, with their fourth graders learning all about the water cycle, water treatment, and water conservation through the Incredible Journey, Filtration Station, and Animals and Epiphytes programs. Students from each school took brief pre-assessments before their first program, and will complete a post-assessment after they finish the series. These assessments will help us measure knowledge gains by the students participating in the series, and will allow us to refine and update our programs to make sure they are working for our students.



On January 31st, we had a wonderful evening celebrating the winning artists from our Allatoona Ally and Friends coloring book contest. Family and friends were able to get their copies of the book autographed by the artists, and each winning artist went home with a poster version of their coloring book page. You can download your own copy of the coloring book here: <http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffResources>. For contest updates, follow Tappy Turtle on Facebook or Twitter.

If you are interested in scheduling a lesson for your students or would like more information about our contests, please contact Amy Warnock at (770) 419-6374 or [amy.warnock@cobbcounty.org](mailto:amy.warnock@cobbcounty.org).



Ally and Tappy Coloring Book Artists sign their work at the Launch Party



Ally and Friends Coloring Book Winners with their Drawings

## Green School Update

We are getting closer to our Green School deadline; all Activity Logs must be submitted by 5pm on Friday, March 31st. You can find the Activity Log form, and any other information you might need about the program, on our Green School page at [www.cobbwater.org/greenschool.htm](http://www.cobbwater.org/greenschool.htm).

If your school has a creative environmental program, you can apply for our Green Innovation Award. It's easy to apply, and a great way to share your school's efforts and be recognized for them. Find more information on the Green School page under Awards: [www.cobbwater.org/greenschool.htm](http://www.cobbwater.org/greenschool.htm).

## Find and Fix Sneaky Leaks To Bust our Drought

Drip. Drip. Drip. The average American household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks—that's the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. If that doesn't seem like a lot, consider that across the country, easy-to-fix household leaks can add up to more than 1 trillion gallons of water lost every year.

That's why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging homeowners to find and fix leaks during the annual Fix a Leak Week, March 19 through March 25, 2017. Sponsored by EPA's WaterSense® program, Fix a Leak Week reminds homeowners of the easy steps they can take to help save water in their community now and for future generations.

Some leaks are obvious, but some sneaky leaks take detective work. Cobb Water will be featuring Drought Buster videos with leak detection tips all week on Tappy Turtle's social media accounts and on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/YouTube-Tappy>. Tune in to find funny and helpful ways to detect leaks around your home. If you and your family would like to be featured in a Drought Buster video send your ideas on how you find and fix leaks to [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org). Water efficiency staff will be choosing the best tip and featuring the winner in an upcoming video. It is your chance to be a Water Star.



Cobb students are also busy making their schools water tight. Water Efficiency staff sent out 20 leak detective kits to Cobb County classrooms. The students are detecting leaks in their schools. Those classes will be sharing leak detective photos all week on Tappy's Facebook page.

If you are at Cobb Water's Customer Service facility during Fix a Leak Week pick up free faucet aerators to stop dripping faucets and toilet dye tablets to check your toilets for leaks. Not all toilet leaks can be heard. These simple steps can save hundreds of gallons of water a month. There will also be information on finding and fixing leaks as well as student activity pages for kids to learn about water conservation. Stop in and help us bust this drought by stopping leaks and water waste.



## Tips from Tappy

The efficient use of our precious water resources is always important, but as the region is currently experiencing a severe drought saving water is even more important. Just because water conservation is important does not mean it is hard to do. Try these easy actions and you can be a Drought Buster too.

- Before turning on your irrigation system for the season, make sure you inspect it and flag any problems. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/sprinklerinspect> for tips and information
- Small leaks can add up to big water bills. Investigate your home for leaks and repair them to save water. More info can be found at [www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency](http://www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency)
- Treat your irrigation system to a water efficiency upgrade. Replace that old controller with a WaterSense Labeled smart controller and take charge of your irrigation.
- Check your water bill for any changes in water consumption. The drought causes our clay soils to compact and tighten and this can cause an increased likelihood of waterline or irrigation line leaks. Excessively green grass or standing water, in the absence of rain, can be an indicator of a leak in your waterline.
- Let us help you lower your water bill and bust the drought. Cobb Water has free fixtures and conservation kits for indoor and outdoor water conservation. Contact [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) to request free water saving materials.



# Fix A Leak Contest!

BE A #DROUGHTBUSTER!

During the month of March, in celebration of <sup>EPA</sup> WaterSense Fix A Leak Week, we want you to send us your ideas on how you can find leaks at home. You and your family could be

chosen to star in the next #DROUGHTBUSTERS YouTube Video!



Fix A Leak Week is  
March 19 – 25, 2017

Submit your ideas to us at [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) and check out our other #DroughtBusters videos at <https://tinyurl.com/YouTube-Tappy>

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SPRING 2017

## Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

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[www.cobbwater.org](http://www.cobbwater.org)



To sign up for this newsletter or to be removed from this mailing list, submit an email to [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org). Be sure to indicate "Sign Me Up" or "Remove Me from Your List" in the subject line.

Published March 17, 2017

### Cobb County Board of Commissioners

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Bob Weatherford, *District One*  
Bob Ott, *District Two*  
JoAnn Birrell, *District Three*  
Lisa Cupid, *District Four*

David Hankerson, *County Manager*

This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

## Water Source Climate Update

Rainfall this winter has been below average and coupled with unusually high temperatures. Cobb is in severe drought status according to the US Drought Monitor. Allatoona's current level is 832.14 feet. The streamflow in local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are less than 25% of the normal streamflow. Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> to keep up to date on the current drought conditions.

### Declared Water Restrictions Status: Level 2 Drought Response

For Irrigation – Outdoor irrigation is permitted twice a week on the odd/even schedule. Even and unnumbered addresses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays and Odd addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays before 10AM and after 4 PM on your designated days. Visit: [www.cobbcounty.org/outdoorwateringrestrictions](http://www.cobbcounty.org/outdoorwateringrestrictions) for more information on outdoor watering rules.

### Rainfall DEC 2016-FEB 2017

DEC -2.67-Inches  
JAN -5.32- Inches  
FEB -1.89- Inches

2016 – 31.09  
ANN. AVG- 49.71  
2016 YTD – 7.21  
JAN/FEB AVG – 8.87  
SOIL MOISTURE-(5.64-Inches)

To keep up with our water resources and efficiency programs and take advantage of our contests please follow Tappy Turtle on Twitter and Facebook



We are currently accepting entries for the H2O in HD High School Video Contest  
<http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffResources>