

# Water matters

Cobb County Water System  
Fall 2020

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## Navigating the New Normal: Program Transitions

Poet, author, actress, and playwright Beah Richards, in her poem "Today" writes: "Today is ours, let's live it / .... / The battle hard, let's fight it / The road is rough, let's clear it / The future vast, don't fear it." Her poem serves as a reminder during these times that anytime is the right time for perseverance and optimism, even in the face of an uphill battle. Carpe diem! Our staff in the Water Efficiency Program and the Watershed Stewardship Program have risen to the challenge. We are proud to present to you our education and service opportunities with new changes and upgrades to help protect the safety of you, the participant, and of our staff.

Most notably, we have transitioned many of our programs to an online format. We are now offering all our school programming, from elementary to high school, via virtual conferencing. With the help of technology, learners are able to see, talk, and engage with our environmental educators in real time. We are also utilizing webinars for our monthly Lunch & Learns, focusing on a different topic each month.



*Rain Barrel Make-and-Take Workshop participants are required to bring a helper they are comfortable working in close contact with.*



*Participants in the Amphibian Monitoring Walks.*

On the other end of the spectrum, some programs will also continue to be offered in-person with new COVID-19 precautions. We have limited group sizes to less than 10 people, are requiring the wearing of face masks, spacing participants 6+ feet apart, and sanitizing all equipment and supplies before, during, and after each program. We feel it is critical to continue to safely offer in-person programs, with opportunities to be outdoors limited, and for those Cobb residents without access to, or comfort with, internet and technology.

Now more than ever, providing critical information about watershed stewardship and water conservation has become like hitting a moving target, a challenge that continues to move and change. In response to the changing community

health and safety regulations, we persist with new models and new methods, because we know how invaluable and dynamic the story of water is. Cobb Water strives to provide education and service opportunities to Cobb County residents. Although our programs will be different, we commit to the quality you have come to expect from us.

# Beyond COVID-19, A Case Study For Hope

There's no doubt that the coronavirus pandemic has had an overwhelming impact on our lives. From the mass lockdowns, to new "social distance" policies at work and school, there's not a person in the country who hasn't in some way been affected by the disease. Despite the unprecedented challenges we currently face, there have been a few silver linings which have emerged in recent months, showing signs of a promising future for both our society and the environment.

Starting around early to mid-May, you may have noticed something different throughout our local ecosystems. It's quieter. Birds and frogs are easier to hear. The stars at night are easier to see. The air smells fresher...more natural. These changes are not illusions. Due to the lockdowns initiated in March and April, the amount of pollution impacting our local ecosystems has gone down dramatically. This has led to a significant increase in the overall health of our watersheds and has allowed our local flora and fauna to flourish in ways not seen for years. With all these distinct ecological changes happening throughout our society, many scientists, environmentalists, and community members are starting to ask questions regarding what the future will hold regarding environmental health and sustainability. In response to these questions, we'd like to use this article to discuss a few important points. Why has the lockdown had such a positive effect overall on environmental health? And what will this mean for the future?



Photo Credit: Thomas Cizauskas  
<https://tinyurl.com/y3meucdz>

## Why Are Lockdowns Having Such A Distinct Effect?

To understand how the environment has benefited from our recent lockdowns, we need to understand the types of pollution which were impacting our watersheds. In general, the major forms of pollution impacting Cobb County include water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution, and light pollution.



- **Water Pollution:** Water pollution is our primary concern here at the water system, for obvious reasons. Healthy water sources are critical to our overall livelihoods. However, many of our bodies of water have been polluted with harmful contaminants caused by runoff from our yards, farms, streets, and parking lots. When it rains, contaminants on land (such as soil, pesticides, fertilizers, and pet waste) are washed into our natural water sources, resulting in negative impacts on aquatic life and water quality.

- **Air Pollution:** Air pollution refers to the release of harmful contaminants in the air which are detrimental to human and animal health. Air pollution primarily comes from the production and use of energy. The burning of fossil fuels, exhaust from cars and buses, backyard fires, and even lawn mowers, all contribute to air pollution. The decrease in air quality in some parts of the U.S. due to these contaminants has led to massive respiratory diseases and a reduction in biodiversity.

- **Noise Pollution:** Before humans came into the picture, nature was a relatively quiet place. The major sounds would come from rustling leaves, rain, thunder, and other animals. Most wild organisms are heavily adapted to these sounds and cannot adapt easily when their local soundscape changes. Today, the world is much louder. Cars and busses driving 24/7, outdoor sports, construction, parties and barbeques, emergency sirens, and airplanes, are confusing sounds for wildlife. As a result, frogs are having trouble calling to their mates, bats are unable to echo-locate as efficiently, and birds and insects are having trouble finding safe migration paths. In 2019, the World Health Organization identified noise pollution as one of the most hazardous forms of pollution because of its negative impacts on all life, from humans and other animals, to insects and even plant life.

- **Light Pollution:** Light pollution, or photo-pollution, is a form of pollution which is often overlooked. It refers to excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial (usually outdoor) light which causes discomfort or degrades environmental health. Like noise pollution, light pollution is a side effect of industrial civilization. Its sources include streetlights, car lights, illuminated sporting venues, building exterior and interior lighting, and outdoor advertising. These light sources have a profound effect on nocturnal animals by turning their nighttime environment into a daytime environment. According to the "World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness," 80% of the world's population is under "skyglow." Meaning, that when the sun goes down, the night sky is still being washed out by artificial light. Aside from the human consequences, many wild organisms are unable to cope with these abrupt changes in their natural light patterns, resulting in significant decreases in biodiversity.

When examining these major forms of pollution in more detail, it becomes clearer why nature seems to have thrived during the shutdown. Calls to shelter-in-place have decreased human activity and consumption. Car, bus, and airplane travel have greatly decreased. Many large businesses and factories are not open. Large sporting and community venues are being used much less frequently. Overall, these changes have led to massive decreases in water, air, noise, and light pollution, providing local wildlife with opportunities they haven't experienced in years and even decades in some cases. We as humans have benefited as well, with clearer skies, cleaner and healthier air, and the wonderful sounds of nature within our communities instead of trains, buses, and cars.



Photo Credit: Aleksandr Zykov  
<https://tinyurl.com/y633rcgd>

### What Will This Mean for The Future?

We must be honest first. These shelter-in-place orders and lockdown measures are only temporary. In fact, some restrictions probably have been lifted by the time you read this article. Although human activity may have decreased in response to the coronavirus, our want and need for those activities remains the same. We still need cars and buses to get to work and school. We love to play sports and have barbeques. Many people like (and indeed need) the convenience of flying on an airplane, as opposed to driving for hours on end. Consequently, it's very likely that, when this is all over, we will go right back to our usual routines, and our environment will be right back where it was (in regard to pollution) in a matter of months. However, there is an alternative path.

### A Case Study for Hope

One thing that these lockdowns have shown us is that our actions can have a substantial and immediate impact on environmental health. The U.S., and the world more broadly, have just collectively participated in a 4-month environmental study, which effectively proves that changes in our habits and activities can have massive positive impacts on human health, environmental health, and overall biodiversity through a decrease in pollution. Of course, it would be far too extreme to retain lockdown measures indefinitely for the benefit of the environment. But, what this experience shows us is that our individual actions matter. Sustainable and environmentally-friendly habits, such as recycling, reducing waste, conserving water, using energy more efficiently, carpooling, and so on can make a huge difference. Many of us are now starting to enjoy the massive benefits of a healthier, more pollution-free watershed. Let's work together and do our best to keep it that way. One way you can start is by checking out all our free educational tools, resources, and volunteer opportunities on our website at [www.cobbstream.org](http://www.cobbstream.org)!

**Sources:** Mohamed E. El Zowalaty, Sean G. Young & Josef D. Järhult (2020) *Environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – a lesson for the future*, *Infection Ecology & Epidemiology*, 10:1, DOI: 10.1080/20008686.2020.1768023  
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## CONSERVATION TIPS

### What can you do to help maintain the positive environmental gains seen during recent restrictions?

- **Eliminate plastic water bottles and switch to tap water.** Many people began hoarding water bottles at the beginning of this pandemic. However, bottled water is more expensive, less safe, and more harmful to our ecosystems than tap water. The water treatment facilities in Cobb County are world-class and we are fortunate to have water treatment professionals who provide us with a constant and safe supply of clean drinking water.
- **Support your local businesses and reduce your carbon footprint by buying local products.** COVID-19 has greatly affected many small businesses. Instead of ordering products online to be shipped from across the country or world, consider products made locally. It is a great way to support your own community and local economy while reducing the amount of greenhouse gases we produce.
- **Plant native plants in your yard.** Many of us enjoyed planting gardens during our time at home, but did you know that your garden can also work to limit the amount of runoff entering our local waterways? Planting a rain garden using native plant species is a great way to help limit the amount of pollution that makes its way into the watershed. Rain gardens help by absorbing excess rain and stormwater and filtering contaminants before they can enter local waterways. Using native plant species are better adapted to thrive in our local climate and can also attract pollinators.
- **Review the chemicals in your cleaning products in your home to protect our waterways.** Many of the cleaning products we use in our homes (like soaps, shampoos, dishwasher detergents, etc.) contain chemicals, such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and ammonia, that can harm our rivers and lakes. While our waste water treatment facilities do a great job of removing most contaminants, some (like triclosan, which is toxic to aquatic organisms) still end up in our rivers and negatively impact sensitive freshwater systems. As we are taking every precaution to make sure our homes are clean during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a good time to review the chemicals in our cleaning products and reduce the harmful chemicals where we can to lessen our impact on our waters.

# The Importance of our Water Infrastructure

This year, our country faced an enormous public health crisis from the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout this emergency, water and wastewater systems kept the water flowing in homes, hospitals, and essential businesses. This crisis demonstrated the critical role that water and wastewater systems play in our communities, protecting public health, safeguarding the environment, and making a healthy economy possible. It is easy to imagine how much worse the pandemic would have been without widespread access to water infrastructure. Without reliable drinking water and sanitation, Americans would be unable to stay safe and limit the spread. In communities with inadequate water and wastewater infrastructure, the public health consequences have been dire.

On October 21, 2020, we *Imagine a Day Without Water*. It's a day to pause and notice the way that water systems impact our lives and communities, and commit to ensuring a sustainable water future for generations to come. What would your day be like if you couldn't turn on the tap and get clean drinking water, or if you flushed the toilet and wastewater didn't go anywhere? What would happen to restaurants, hospitals, firefighters, farms, breweries, or the hundreds of other industries that depend on water?



Millions of Americans take water service for granted every day. Turn on the tap, and clean water flows out. Flush the toilet, and dirty water goes away. Washing our hands regularly is an important step to limit the spread of coronavirus. Many don't stop to think about the impressive infrastructure and treatment required to make sure water comes out when you open the tap or safely return water to the environment from your sink. The truth is, our water and wastewater systems are getting older and everyone should be concerned with the vulnerability of those systems.

Cobb County Water System's water distribution system consists of over 3,000 miles of drinking water pipes and over 2,600 miles of wastewater infrastructure, more than the distance from Atlanta, Georgia, to Seattle, Washington, and back. These 5,600 miles of pipes run underneath Cobb County and safeguard drinking water and wastewater service for homes, schools, and businesses. Routine maintenance and repairs are regularly performed on these pipes. However, infrastructure can be damaged, resulting in costly emergency repairs.

The most common damage to water and wastewater infrastructure starts in our homes and businesses. Water System customers can cause unintended damage to their pipes, leading to significant damage in service lines. Infrastructure damage can be prevented and starts with adopting new habits to treat your pipes right.

## Drinking Water Pipes:

Drinking water infrastructure cleans and pumps your drinking water to your home for your use. Winter creates freezing temperatures that can damage your pipes. As water freezes it expands, which can break your drinking water pipes and cause major leaks. The pipes most at risk are those in unheated interior spaces such as basements, attics, and garages. But even pipes running through cabinets and exterior walls can freeze. Fortunately, there are some simple steps you can take to keep your pipes from freezing and potentially causing major problems. Opening the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors allows warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Dripping cold water from your faucets served by outside pipes allows the movement of water to help prevent freezing in your pipes during extreme cold weather. Remember to place a bowl in your sink to catch the drops and use the water collected for washing your dishes, watering your plants, or watering your pets.

## Wastewater Pipes:

Taking care of your wastewater pipes is as easy as using one feature in your home more often, the trashcan. Items that belong in a trashcan should not be flushed down the toilet or washed down the kitchen sink. Many customers unknowingly use their toilet and sink as a trashcan. Flushing items such as toilet paper is acceptable, but wet wipes, when flushed, can cause infrastructure damage by not disintegrating and creating obstructions in service lines. While labels may say flushable, these items do not breakdown. If wipes are wet in the package and don't break down, how can they dissolve like toilet paper when flushed down wastewater pipes? Simply placing your wet wipes in the trashcan can prevent significant damage to wastewater service lines.



A common misconception is that food products and scraps are fine to go down the kitchen sink. But often that food contains fats, oils, and grease (FOG), and can cause significant clogs within wastewater infrastructure. FOGs are in foods such as salad dressing, ice cream, and bacon. When hot grease, sticky oils, and dairy products are rinsed down the drain, they stick together and form solid deposits on the sides of service lines. Over time, FOG can accumulate, restricting flow to the point where little water can pass through the buildup on the pipes. These “fatburgs” cause sewer backups and dangerous overflows in service lines. By disposing your food waste into a trash can, not down the drain, you will help protect the wastewater pipes in your home and service lines in the field. Use of a garbage disposal or running hot water does NOT prevent a FOG clog.

Is your home on a septic system instead of piped into the sewer collection system? If so, contract a septic hauler to pump your septic tank every three-five years. FOG in a septic system can cause clogs and lead to blockages in your home that require emergency plumbing repairs.

## Sewer Blockage Formation



The start of a blocked pipe begins when grease and solids collect on the top and sides of the pipe interior.



The build-up increases over time when grease and other debris are washed down the drain.



Excessive accumulation will restrict the flow of wastewater and can result in a sanitary sewer overflow.

Preventing damage in your home’s water and wastewater pipes, helps prevent major issues within water and wastewater service lines. Even with prevention, accidents can happen with water and wastewater infrastructure. Service lines can rupture due to shifting soil, increased traffic, use of heavy construction equipment above ground, or even the age of the infrastructure. When these service lines breakdown, repairs and replacements can be costly. The money Cobb County Water System customers pay on their monthly water bill helps to fund these repairs and projects. For more information on how rates are calculated and how Cobb County rates compare to other utilities in the area, visit <https://www.cobbcounty.org/water/customer-service/water-rates>.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

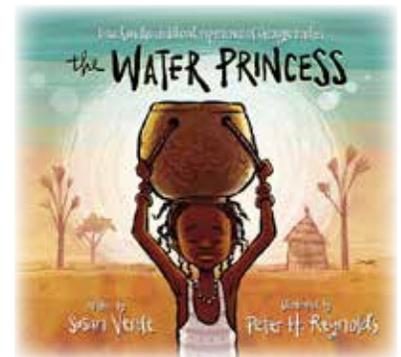
### The Water Princess

Written by Susan Verde, Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

"With its wide sky and warm earth, Princess Gie Gie’s kingdom is a beautiful land. But clean drinking water is scarce in her small African village. And try as she might, Gie Gie cannot bring the water closer; she cannot make it run clearer. Every morning, she rises before the sun to make the long journey to the well. Instead of a crown, she wears a heavy pot on her head to collect the water. After the voyage home, after boiling the water to drink and clean with, Gie Gie thinks of the trip that tomorrow will bring. And she dreams. She dreams of a day when her village will have cool, crystal-clear water of its own."

Inspired by the childhood of African-born model Georgie Badiel, acclaimed author Susan Verde and award-winning author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds have come together to tell this moving story. As a child in Burkina Faso, Georgie and the other girls in her village had to walk for miles each day to collect water. This vibrant, engaging picture book sheds light on this struggle that continues all over the world today, instilling hope for a future when all children will have access to clean drinking water."

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/y436vgjv>



## COBB'S CLIMATE UPDATE

**Allatoona’s current level:**  
840.36 feet, at normal level

**Chattahoochee River and tributaries:**  
At normal ranges

**Lake Lanier:**  
1071.23 feet, at normal level

**U.S. Drought Monitor:** None

**Rainfall Level:** Normal

- 2020 Total: 51.92 inches
- Jan-August Historical Average: 49.71 inches

**Rainfall June - August 2020:**

- June: 5.2 inches
- July: 4.3 inches
- August: 5.6 inches

**Declared Water Restrictions Status:**  
**Non-Drought Status**

Outdoor water use: irrigation permitted daily before 10 AM and after 4 PM.

No restrictions on other outdoor water uses: car washing, pressure washing, and hand watering.

## PROGRAM NEWS

Cobb County Water System's Watershed Stewardship and Water Efficiency Programs recognize three volunteers for their dedicated service and contributions to the Cobb community. Although our traditional Stewardship Fair was canceled in the Spring, we individually celebrated their hard work and dedication. Thank you, Janice, Tiffany, and George, for your continued efforts, and for inspiring us and our community to follow your lead in taking action to protect our natural resources and local wildlife habitat.

### **Congratulations to Tiffany Davidson, Steward of the Year Award recipient!**

Tiffany earned the 2020 Steward of the Year Award because of her impressive community engagement within her neighborhood over the past year. One of the goals of our program is to educate our residents to better understand their role in protecting water quality and environmental health. The work Tiffany has done towards fulfilling this goal includes organizing a stream cleanup, participating in amphibian monitoring data collection, monitoring for chemical baseline data in her watershed, placing storm drain markers in her neighborhood, and distributing educational information about how households can limit their footprint on the local environment. The steps Tiffany took to not only volunteer her time, but to gather the interest of her neighborhood community to help in these efforts is truly appreciated.



### **Congratulations to George Aycock, Watershed Volunteer of the Year!**

We are proud to present the 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award to George Aycock, who deserves this honor for his long-standing, consistent, and reliable data collection at two stream monitoring sites at Lake Acworth. George has collected QA/QC baseline chemical data using the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream monitoring methods at these two sites since July of 2013, providing enough data to better understand the condition of these streams that enter the lake. To do this, George has remained current with the program's annual certification protocols and demonstrated a true dedication to protecting the waters of Georgia. Thank you George!

### **Congratulations to Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team, Partner of the Year Award recipient!**

We are excited to present the 2020 Partner of the Year Award to Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team for the company's steadfast commitment to storm water pollution prevention and environmental stewardship. We are thankful for the opportunity shared with us to educate the community about proper pet waste disposal at the Low-cost Pet Vaccination Clinics sponsored and hosted by Janice and her team. Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team is also our inaugural Community Partner for Healthy Streams for 2020! They have taken up company-wide practices, of which some notable examples include ceasing the usage of single-use plastics, upcycling plastic grocery bags into dog leashes and utilizing water efficient toilets. Thank you, Janice Overbeck Real Estate Team, for being a beacon to how businesses can uptake the causes of watershed stewardship and water conservation. You continue to be an inspiration and we are proud to work with you.



## SEASONAL HAPPENINGS

### **Storm Drain Marking**

**Tuesday • September 15, 2020 • 6:00pm - 8:00pm • Milford Woods Subdivision, 3252 Ashgrove Ln SE, Marietta**  
**Thursday • October 22, 2020 • 5:30pm - 7:30pm • Gant Quarters Subdivision, 2842 Gant Quarter Dr SE, Marietta**  
**Monday • November 23, 2020 • 5:30pm - 7:30pm • Oak Crest Subdivision, 1658 Oak Crest Ct, Marietta**

Each pair of volunteers will have a bucket full of supplies: maps, pens, storm drain markers, adhesive, educational material packets, and trash bags. Teams will mark the storm drains, pick up litter, and distribute packets to each home to educate them on the newly marked storm drains.



### **Stream Cleanup**

**Saturday • September 12, 2020 • 9:00am - 12:00pm • Tramore Park**  
**Saturday • November 14, 2020 • 10:00am - 12:00pm • Rottenwood Creek Watershed**

We will provide you with trash bags, grabbers (litter sticks), orange safety vests, blue latex gloves, and data cards to record the debris we collect. For the stream cleanups, wear clothes that can get wet and sturdy closed-toes shoes like tennis shoes or water shoes.

### **Fairy House Workshop**

**Monday • September 21, 2020 • 9:30am - 11:00am**  
**Wednesday • October 21, 2020 • 9:30am - 11:00am**  
**Tuesday • November 3, 2020 • 10:00am - 11:30am • Pumpkin Fairy House Workshop**

Our youngest environmental stewards will have a chance to use natural materials and pumpkins (November workshop only) collected from along the trail to create shelters for fairies and other small creatures. Traditional fairy houses will remain in our Wildlife & Rain Garden, fairy pumpkin houses will be taken home to provide habitat to the creatures at your home. Workshops will take place at the Water Lab's Wildlife & Rain Garden, 662 South Cobb Drive, Marietta.

To register for a space in these free upcoming events, visit our website, [www.cobbstreams.org](http://www.cobbstreams.org), under Calendar.

# Stewardship Stars

## Excellence in Data Collection

The following volunteers have submitted data each month during the June, July, and August quarter:

- AJ Hampton - Chemical Monitoring in Willeo Watershed
- Angie's Northeast Cobb Streams - Chemical Monitoring in Noonday Watershed
- Anne Ledbetter - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring on Poplar Creek
- Beving on Lake Allatoona - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring on Lake Allatoona
- Bishop Lakes - Chemical Monitoring in Willeo Watershed
- Bushart - Chemical Monitoring in Sewell Mill Watershed
- Cobb Progressives - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring in Noonday, Proctor, Lake Acworth Watersheds
- Concord Woolen Mill - Chemical Monitoring on Nickajack Creek
- Connie Ghosh - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring on Rubes Creek
- Friday - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring on Polar Creek
- Grams Collins Gals - Chemical Monitoring in Willeo Watershed
- Heidi Stephens - Chemical Monitoring in Willeo Watershed
- Keep Smyrna Beautiful - Chemical Monitoring in Nickajack Watershed
- Lakewood Colony - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring in Rubes Watershed
- Loch Highland - Chemical Monitoring in Willeo Watershed
- Mud Creek Troccoli - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring on Mud Creek
- Pope High School - Chemical Monitoring in Sewell Mill Watershed
- Richard's Creek - Chemical Monitoring in Allatoona Watershed
- Rosco Peters - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring on Rottenwood Creek
- Sierra Club Centennial Group - Chemical, Bacterial, & Macro Monitoring in Rottenwood Watershed
- Simon Locke - Chemical, Habitat, & Bacterial Monitoring on Butler Creek
- Team Salty - Chemical Monitoring on Sope Creek
- Village North Highlands - Chemical & Bacterial Monitoring in Willeo Watershed

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Mar Doyle - Chemical Monitoring on Nickajack Creek  
 Hannah Harris - Chemical Monitoring in the Willeo Watershed  
 Michael Marshall - Bacterial Monitoring on Allatoona Creek

### "By the Ocean"

Here I stand by the ocean side,  
 Waiting for the lovely tide.  
 I see some fish in the sea,  
 I believe they're waiting for me.  
 In the distance kids run in the sand,  
 Some of them even clap their hands.  
 I lie down and watch the kids play,  
 In the afternoon of their beach day.  
 I take a swim through the sea,  
 I love the feel when the sand scrapes my knee.  
 As it's ending the lovely night,  
 I lie on the sand watching for light.  
 I see turtles and fish in the sea,  
 They're all looking at me.  
 The clear water shimmers in the sun,  
 I am having so much fun.  
 I look around and see all sand,  
 I love this beautiful sandy land.  
 I see a kingfisher on a log,  
 It looks so sad in the fog.  
 I walk along the sandy shore,  
 I could never ask for more.  
 I really feel the need to swim,  
 I see fish fat and slim.  
 I feel the warmth of love in the air,  
 Many people don't but I really care.  
 I love the sea,  
 It's the best place to be!

2020 Georgia River of Words National Finalist  
 by Evelyn Swinford, grade 2  
 CASA Montessori School, Marietta  
 Teacher: Rachel Rarick

### waterSmart Contests

Each year, Cobb County Water System partners with Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to sponsor three art contests that encourages students' creativity while emphasizing water conservation. This year, the contests will be slightly different as will the celebrations of winners. For more information visit our website <https://www.cobbcounty.org/water/education/schools/school-contests>.

#### waterSmart waterArt 2021 Calendar Contest

Cobb County middle school students are invited to use their talent and create a 2-D work of art that answers the question, "How is water important to me?" All entries will be displayed in a virtual gallery with 12 winners appearing in the 2021 waterSmart calendar.

**Deadline for submissions: October 30, 2020.**

#### Adventures with Tappy Turtle

This contest invites Cobb County fourth and fifth grade students to create coloring book illustrations depicting Cobb Water's mascot, Tappy Turtle, conserving water. Winning designs are featured in the Adventures with Tappy Turtle coloring book distributed throughout the community.

**Deadline for submissions: December 4, 2020.**

#### waterSmart Photo Contest

Cobb County contains many beautiful water features. High School students are encouraged to document these while focusing on the theme "How is water important to me?" Winning photos will be developed into notecard sets distributed throughout the county.

**Deadline for submissions: February 12, 2021.**

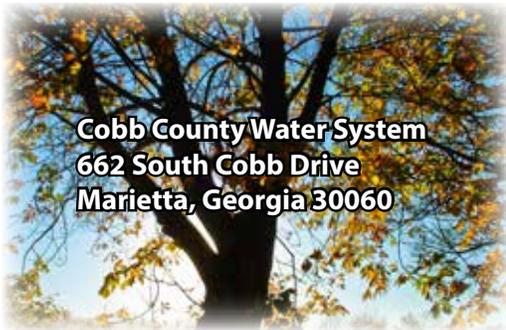
For more information on these contests, email [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org).

2020 Calendar Winner  
 Amatul B. - Simpson Middle School



2019-2020 waterSmart Photo Contest Winners





**Cobb County Water System**  
**662 South Cobb Drive**  
**Marietta, Georgia 30060**



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

**Calendar of Events**

**September**

- 3 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 3 Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Monitoring Workshop • 6:30pm - 9:00pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 5 Amphibian Hike • 7:00pm - 8:30pm • Leone Hall Price Park
- 10 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 12 Rivers Alive Stream Cleanup • 9:00am - 12:00pm • Tramore Park
- 15 Rain Barrel Make & Take • 3:00pm - 4:00pm & 5:00pm - 6:00pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Wildlife & Rain Garden
- 15 Storm Drain Marking • 6:00pm - 8:00pm • 3252 Ashgrove Lane SE, Marietta
- 17 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 21 Fairy House Workshop • 9:30am - 11:00am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Wildlife & Rain Garden
- 24 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 25 Lunch & Learn: Septic System Basics • 12:00pm - 12:45pm • Webinar

**October**

- 1 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 8 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 10 Adopt-A-Stream Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Workshop • 9:00am - 2:00pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 14 Noonday Habitat Demonstration Site Workday • 5:30pm - 7:30pm • Noonday Creek Bells Ferry Trailhead
- 15 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 21 Fairy House Workshop • 9:30am - 11:00am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Wildlife & Rain Garden
- 22 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 22 Storm Drain Marking • 5:30pm - 7:30pm • 2842 Gant Quarters Dr SE, Marietta
- 23 Rain Barrel Make & Take • 10:00am - 11:00am & 12:00pm - 1:00pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Wildlife & Rain Garden
- 28 Amphibian Monitoring Workshop • 6:00pm - 8:00pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 29 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 30 Lunch & Learn: Indoor Water Efficiency Audit • 12:00pm - 12:45pm • Webinar
- 31 Household Hazardous Waste Collection • Time and Location TBD • For more information, contact Keep Cobb Beautiful: 770-528-1135

**November**

- 3 Fairy Pumpkin House Workshop • 10:00am - 11:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Wildlife & Rain Garden
- 5 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 12 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 14 Stream Cleanup • 10:00am - 12:00pm • Rottenwood Creek Watershed, Exact Location TBD
- 18 Rain Barrel Make & Take • 9:00am - 10:00am & 11:00am - 12:00pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory Wildlife & Rain Garden
- 18 Adopt-A-Stream Chemical Monitoring Workshop • 6:00pm - 8:30pm • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 19 Rain Garden Work Day • 8:30am - 10:30am • Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
- 20 Lunch & Learn: Water & Wastewater 101 • 12:00pm - 12:45pm • Webinar
- 23 Storm Drain Marking • 5:30pm - 7:00pm • 1658 Oak Crest Ct, Marietta

More information can be found on our Calendar at [www.cobbstreams.org](http://www.cobbstreams.org).