

A Letter from the President

I lived the first 20 years of my life in Transylvania County. I generally miss the snow and howling, whirling winds of winter—all of this to the dismay of my southern friends.

I grew up in a white house beside the road with my four brothers. I hardly was 10 years old, and I still can hear my mother's voice announcing the season's first snowfall.

"Look, child, the angels are powdering their noses!"

Now, more than 30 years have passed, and I'm living in Henderson County. Sometime around the 15th of December, just before dawn, I will lift the shade and peer through the frosted window and recall that I am just in time to see the angels at it again—powdering their noses!

Feeling a bit of the 10-year-old boy I once was, I will slide out of bed and tiptoe down the stairs to the living room, careful not to wake up the rest of the house.

The house, feeling a bit damp with a slight chill in the air, will soon feel cozy from the comfortable blaze burning in the fireplace. A fresh pot of coffee will bubble in the kitchen, and Luke (our dog) will come by and offer me company.

Sitting in my oak rocker in front of the bay window, I will watch with the boyish wonder that has awakened inside of me. Gazing at the wet, fluffy flakes clinging instantly to everything

they touch, I will rock and reminisce of my days as a little boy playing in the snow with my friends.

Shabby brown oaks in the yard will transform into elegant white-gowned ladies, as if Cinderella's fairy godmother had flourished her magic wand. Gray-green grass will have gradually disappeared beneath a sparkling castle floor carpeted with the finest fleece.

As I sit and sip my hot coffee and enjoy the warmth of the fire, I savor the fairy tale scene, remembering my young days, winter and Christmas in the old white house back home.

Now, hours later through the window, I see the storm has nearly ended, leaving the trees at our nursery dressed in fluffy, white robes. As the clouds part, the moonlight embellishes the farm with a million sparkling diamonds.

Two bright red cardinals carrying a sprig of holly berries flutter by the window to a nearby tree, arriving home just in time for Christmas.

Yes, I'll be home for Christmas, too, in that white house beside the road. There's just no place like home for the holidays.

So if Christmas is a feeling, bringing with it good cheer, then why don't you and I try to make it last all year. May the road you travel always lead you home.

From our house to yours,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jerry Merrill, President

TRADE SHOW TIME

Don't forget about the annual **N.C. Ground Water Association Trade Show / Continuing Education, Jan. 29-30, 2010 at the Park Inn in Hickory**. A registration form with details is enclosed. Please fill it out, and send it in today!

AUCTION/PIG PICKIN'

Help keep our defense fund strong! Come join us at the **Defense Fund Auction & Pig Pickin'** at 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 at the trade show in Hickory**. All money raised is used to protect the N.C. groundwater industry and well contractors.

Scholarships Available

Worth Pickard Scholarship

The N.C. Ground Water Association offers the Worth Pickard Scholarship to eligible students who are currently enrolled or who have been accepted into an accredited college or university. Consideration will also be given to those seeking specialized courses of study, if the applicant is employed or otherwise involved in some area of the ground water industry.

For eligibility requirements

and an application form, please visit our Web site, www.ncgwa.org, and click on the link for the Worth Pickard Scholarship.

The deadline for the 2010 scholarship is April 15, 2010.

Contact the NCGWA office at 919-876-0687 for more details.

JUBILEE Scholarship

The South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE offers the JUBILEE Scholarship.

Any properly executed application will be accepted,

though, a higher priority will be given to any applicant who is pursuing a degree in water well or ground water related studies.

For eligibility requirements and an application form, please visit the South Atlantic Well Drillers' Web site, www.well-drillers.com, and click on the Scholarship link.

The deadline for the 2010 scholarship is March 1, 2010.

Contact Crystal Bergdoll with the South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE at 540-740-3329 for more details.

Longtime member passes

James Kenneth (Kenny) Steele Sr., age 62, of Cleveland, died Friday, Nov. 13, 2009 at the Gordon Hospice House.

Steele, born in Iredell County on Aug. 20, 1947, was a certified well driller with the N.C. Ground Water Association.

He worked with his father boring wells and making repairs until 1982.

At that time, he and his wife, Kippy, formed Steele Well Company, Inc., and Lake Norman Well Drilling, Inc.

He continued to be involved in the day-to-day operations until the last few days of his life.



He was a member of South River United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to South River United Methodist Church, 2880 South River Church Road, Woodleaf, NC 27054 or Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County, 2347 Simonton Road, Statesville Road, Statesville, NC 28625.

New home construction falls 10.6 percent

New home construction unexpectedly fell 10.6 percent in October from the previous month to the lowest level since April, *USA Today* reported, raising concerns about a key pillar of the economic recovery.

New homes were started at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 529,000 units, the Census Bureau released recently. That's 31 percent below the pace a year ago. Analysts had forecast an annual rate of 600,000. Starts of single-family homes fell 6.8 percent from September, to a 476,000 annual pace. Multi-family building plunged 34 percent to a rate of 53,000.

Keep Us Updated

In order to keep you informed on important issues, we quickly need to contact you. Please call the NCGWA office at 919-876-0687 or e-mail at execman@att.net with your e-mail address, phone numbers, fax number and current address if changes are necessary.

Revised standards in mail from state

The N.C. Well Contractor Certification Commission staff has mailed a hardcopy of the Oct. 1, 2009 revised 2C.0100 Well Construction Standards to all N.C. certified well contractors. The commission asks all to read the revised 2C.0100 as there have been many changes.

This set of rules and others are also available for viewing and download online. Go to www.ncwelldriller.org under "Regulations" to link to it.

While on the Web site, you can also check to see how many PDH you have. The "Services Offered" and "Address Change Form" are also available there.

Water Specialist Ad

Atlantic Screen Ad

Baroid Ad

Board meets with Commissioners

Several NCGWA board members had the opportunity to meet with the Environmental Steering Committee of the Association of North Carolina County Commissioners.

NCGWA President Jerry Merrill, Board members Mike Floyd and Danny Lloyd, along with NCGWA lobbyist, Colleen Kochanek, provided the Committee with some basic information on geology and hydrogeology, and some insight into the relationship between well construction types and N.C. geology.

Other topics included private water rights, water conservation measures, applicability of water wells to support public water systems instead of

replacing them, and water quality and well yields.

The Committee asked lots of questions about how wells are governed, permitted, inspected, etc., and the members seemed very interested in how NCGWA could work in concert with their group to challenge some testing legislation that might be coming in the near future.

In all, it was a very productive meeting, and NCGWA hopefully made a good, solid impression with the group as a potential resource for information about groundwater and wells and gained an important ally in the ongoing legislative battles facing both groups next year.

Colleen has advised that she

has received very positive feedback from her contacts with that group, and they look forward to working with NCGWA in the future.

Be sure to thank Danny Lloyd in particular, as it was his contact with his local county commissioner that gave NCGWA a "seat at the table" on this one.

It just goes to show that everyone needs to contact their local leaders and form relationships with them so we can be a part of the solution to groundwater issues instead of "being on the outside looking in."

Mike Floyd
McCall Brothers
NCGWA Board Member

National Ground Water Awareness Week

March 7-13, 2010 marks the annual National Ground Water Awareness Week.

The National Ground Water Association stresses the

importance of yearly testing and well maintenance.

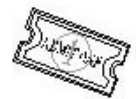
Let consumers know that an annual checkup by a licensed or certified water well

contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and quality water. Maintenance can prolong the life of the well and equipment.

Get Your Ticket To The Main Event



DEFENSE FUND AUCTION & PIG PICKIN'



Friday, January 29, 2010

Auction: 4:30 PM Pig Pickin': After Auction



Pig Pickin' Sponsors

Pig Pickin'

\$10/person

Defense Fund Donation



All money raised from the Defense Fund Auction and Pig Pickin' is used to defend and protect the North Carolina groundwater industry and Well Contractors.