



JUNE 2011

WATER WORDS

A Letter from the President

I hope all of you are doing well. The year 2011 is flying by and will soon be half gone, BUT WE STILL HAVE HALF A YEAR REMAINING.

The housing industry is still a depressed market, and as a result the economy is still in poor condition. But on the bright side, the weather is heating up, and when it becomes hot and dry our product (ground water) becomes more in demand with well and pump installations and repairs.

I hope you have been keeping up with the NCGWA sponsored bill (SB 676) as it has now passed the NC Senate and is being considered in the NC House of Representatives. We still need to keep those phone calls and emails coming to our legislators in asking for their support. Colleen Kochanek (our lobbyist) has done a great job in promoting and getting this bill sponsored. We have been very blessed to have her representing us, with her knowledge, energy and concern for our industry.

I want to thank Mike Floyd (legislative chairman) for his efforts in our success to date and also everyone who participated in our Legislative lobby day in Raleigh. A special thank you to Chauncey Leggett and John Boyette for attending and assisting Colleen at several legislative committee meetings in Raleigh. We owe them a great deal of thanks for taking their time from work to repre-

sent the NCGWA and the ground water industry, and also thanks to Dan Huffman and Danny Lloyd for their assistance in providing research information that Colleen needed for the legislators.

Our continuing education classes in Asheville and Wilson were successful this year because of the efforts of Jerry Merrill and John Boyette in providing us with excellent classes and demonstrations.

By the grace of God, each one of us is given 525,600 minutes each year, and individually each one of us decides how we use that gift. Work and rest use up some of that time, and hopefully you will share much of that time with family and friends. How well or poorly we use that gift defines our life and makes us who we are. My wish for all of us is that we make the best use of that gift that we have been given, because WE STILL HAVE HALF A YEAR REMAINING.

My final thanks is to all of you who share your gift of time in support of the NCGWA and our industry. I hope to see you and your family at the Jubilee in Myrtle Beach on July 30 to Aug. 1 as we have a great Jubilee agenda planned this year.

God bless you,

David Hutson
President

South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE

July 30-Aug. 1, 2011 | Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The 56th Annual South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE will be held July 30-Aug. 1, 2011 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The JUBILEE offers attendees a first-rate trade show, challenging continuing education classes with sufficient credit hours for all states, and the chance to meet and learn from hundreds of experienced industry practitioners. For complete information on the event, visit the website at www.well-drillers.com. **The NCGWA will hold a membership meeting at 1 p.m., Monday, Aug. 1, 2011 in Rm. 102/3 at the convention center in Myrtle Beach, S.C.** Please make plans to attend!

WHAT'S ON TAP

NCGWA Membership Meeting

The North Carolina Ground Water Association will hold a membership meeting at 1 p.m., Monday, Aug. 1, 2011 in Rm. 102/3 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

This meeting runs in conjunction with the 56th Annual South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE, which will be held July 30-Aug. 1, 2011 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Please make plans to attend both the NCGWA membership meeting as well as the South Atlantic Well Drillers JUBILEE.

For more information about the JUBILEE, including registration and hotel information, visit the JUBILEE's website, www.well-drillers.com.

For more information about NCGWA, visit its website, www.ncgwa.org.

Protect Your Groundwater Day

The National Ground Water Association's second annual Protect Your Groundwater Day is a little more than three months away.

Please mark **Tuesday, Sept. 13** on your calendars, and use this occasion to remind the public about actions every person can take to protect groundwater.

For more information about Protect Your Groundwater Day, visit NGWA's website, www.ngwa.org.



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\$250 per issue/\$850 per year

PUBLICATION DATES

Articles and ad deadlines

are the first day of

MARCH	JUNE
SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER

Any and all NCGWA members are encouraged to send information on past or coming events or news articles that would be of interest to other well drillers. Please send profiles of well drillers/companies that you feel deserve to be highlighted in our newsletter.

Letter From N.C. Division of Water Quality

Well Contractors:

The North Carolina Division of Water Quality's Aquifer Protection Section needs your input!

As you are aware, rule 15A NCAC 02C .0112(g) states, "Well rehabilitation by noncontinuous chemical treatment shall be conducted using methods and materials approved by the Department based on a demonstration that the materials and methods used will not create a violation of groundwater standards in 15A NCAC 02L or otherwise render the groundwater unsuitable for its intended best usage after completion of the rehabilitation."

We are currently in the process of formalizing a list of approved chemical products for well rehabilitation. Therefore, we would like to know which chemical products (other than hypochlorite) you use to rehabilitate wells and would like to see on our approved list. When providing us your feedback, please make sure to include the generic name of the product, the main chemical(s) involved, and the name of the manufacturer.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to answer this question and we appreciate your assistance in this matter!

You can send you responses via email to Eric G. Smith at eric.g.smith@ncdenr.gov or you can contact him by phone at 919-715-6196. Please provide your responses by July 15, 2011.

Sincerely,

Eric G. Smith, P.G.
Aquifer Protection Section

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Legislative News

The following are a few of the legislative issues that the NCGWA is working on behalf of its members. For a complete list of legislative issues, go to www.ncgwa.org, and click on “legislative reports.”

1) **Senate Bill 181, Underground Storage Tank Program.** This is the bill that we opposed since the original edition did not require clean up of certain spills from underground storage tanks. The bill was amended to bring it into Federal compliance and requires abatement activities and other requirements according to federal laws.

2) **House Bill 787, NC Water Efficiency Act.** This bill originally had language that would have permitted DENR to provide information to local governments about requiring meters for all water sources. We were concerned about this provision since many cities want to meter wells already. The bill was amended last week that removed this provision and instead allows information on metering and submetering existing multiunit residential, commercial and industrial complexes.

3) **SB 492 - Has been voted on and approved by the Senate - Protect Landowner Water Rights**

The following is an overview of S492:

- Establishes in the General Statutes what the water policy of the state is
- Policy will guide administrative and judicial decisions regarding water use
- Codifies in General Statutes the rights of landowners to use water from their property (common law principles)
- Maintains existing authority of the state to regulate water use in certain instances, but keeps them from further restricting such use by landowners
- Clarifies that in declared droughts, agriculture can continue to use water as necessary to maintain crops and animals, and Amends Dam Safety Act by exempting farm ponds from those requirements if supervised and approved by a professional engineer

4) **SB 405, Amend Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Laws,** was amended in the Senate Commerce Committee to clarify that the licensure exemption for federal, state, or local government performing irrigation construction or contracting work on public property applies when the work is performed using its own employees. The bill also was amended to increase the required suspension time from 30 to 60 days for failure to obtain continuing education units. **The bill as amended was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee and will next be considered by the Senate Finance Committee.**

Legislative Day Enjoys Success

The N.C. Ground Water Association held its second “Legislative Day” on March 23.

Members of the NCGWA toured the North Carolina State Legislature and spoke with representatives about the important issues affecting the groundwater industry.

Thank you to the following people who took time out of their schedules to talk with their Legislators about the Ground Water Industry, the benefits and the problems they face:

David Hutson, Phillip Perkinson, Thomas Ammons, Marilyn Venable, Kristie Waters, Wayne Davis, John Boyette, Jr., Chauncey Leggett, Mike Floyd and Chad Mullis.

2010-11 NCGWA Board of Directors

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Elaine Christian, NCGWA, Raleigh



Members of the 2010-11 NCGWA Board of Directors.

Front row, from left to right: Wayne Davis, Mike Floyd, David Hutson, John Boyette Jr. Back row, from left to right: Glen Darch, Chauncey Leggett, Kristi Waters, Chad Mullis.

INTERESTED IN SERVING THE NCGWA?

Contact Elaine Christian at the NCGWA office for more information: 919-876-0687 or elaine@execman.net.

Stay Informed

Legislative issues can affect the industry. Go to www.ncgwa.org. On the left-hand side of the page, go to "Legislative Reports." As we receive updates and reports from the NCGWA lobbyist, they are placed on the website. If you have questions or concerns, please call the NCGWA office at 919-876-0687.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS:

Your legislators are determined by your home address, but you can also contact the legislators that represent the area where your office is located.

- Go to the NCGWA website (www.ncgwa.org)
- Go to the home page
- Go to "Do you know who represents you?"
- Click the link, www.ncleg.net.

Once on the General Assembly site, you can find your current House and Senate members.

- Click on "Representation"
- Click on "By County"
- Enter your county and zip code

You can click on the representatives' names for their websites and to contact them via email.

If you want to be included on the legislative alert list, call the NCGWA office at 919-876-0687.

Ground Water Use Is Most Productive Water Conservation Effort For Atlanta

**By Dan Harman, P.G.
Senior Hydrogeologist
Ground-Water Services, Inc.
www.groundwaterrock.com**

Ground water beneath the metro area is more abundant than most citizens and policy makers realize. As a Georgia Registered Professional Geologist with a specialty in hydrogeology, I have witnessed the increasing efforts of property owners to tap into the ground water beneath their properties.

Property owners have a historical right of reasonable-use of the ground water beneath their property. In addition, current state outdoor water conservation law exempts use of a private well from water use limitations as is applied to surface water. The issue raised by some is that all waters, both surface and ground, are hydrologically connected. This assumption is not correct as it relates to deep wells in the metro area and in the Georgia Piedmont.

Water conservation, which is an important effort to reduce surface water use, can be realized by using ground water. It is that simple. Hundreds of home owners and businesses realized this during the recent drought, and as the cost of surface water continues to rise, more will investigate their options for ground water use. Why wait 5-10 years for a new reservoir with the anticipation of being able to use more water, when a well can be installed in less than one week. And consider the cost savings available, when some businesses are saving

tens of thousands of dollars each year by using ground water.

As an example of the importance of the ground water within the metro area, the wells located by the author in Fulton County provide adequate irrigation, building cooling water and other non-consumptive water uses.

Of the almost 100 wells located to-date, 75 percent of the wells have reported yields of 10-100 gallons per minute (gpm). Twenty-one percent of the wells had reported yields of less than 10 gpm, but with hydrofracing and modern tank systems, most users were able to meet their water needs. Four per cent of the wells had reported yields of over 100 gpm, but of course, only a fraction of this flow rate (approximately 20 gpm) will be used. Well locations in other metro counties have had similar results.

Although ground water from the fractured bedrock aquifer provides numerous small cities and counties with adequate sole-source and supplemental water, the ground water flow rates have not yet been discovered at the rates necessary for consumptive water use by the heavily populated metro areas. However, the non-consumptive ground-water use immediately eliminates an equal amount of surface water use, which is the whole issue in the metro area. The more ground water is used, the less surface water is needed; that is true conservation.

Ground water from deep within the fractured bedrock aquifer does not draw water from rivers and streams.

If it did, GAEPD would not allow consumptive use (drinking and sanitation) of the ground water. Site specific hydrogeologic studies are conducted to determine the lack of connection of deep wells to surface water, thereby protecting the quality of the well water.

The shallow aquifer is the only aquifer that impacts surface water. The shallow aquifer is the aquifer which meteorologists refer to when they mention the importance of ground water maintaining the base flow of streams or when they mention that the ground is saturated and local flooding could occur.

Deep ground water is not connected to surface water. The majority of wells installed within the metro area are deep because shallow wells do not yield enough water. The common belief that all waters should be regulated, to ensure the most conservation, is neither based on fact, nor is a rational conclusion of the real issue, which is the lack of surface water, not the lack of ground water.

Home and business use of small amounts of ground water is a major financial savings for the user, but is a minimal use compared to the millions of gallons of surface water used daily in the metro area. Even when these small amounts are multiplied by the number of well owners, the total amount is not substantial enough to warrant the expansion of GAEPD to permit the use of small amounts of ground-water. Regulation of large water users (70

Annual Scholarship Winners

2011 JUBILEE Scholars

The following students affiliated with NCGWA are recipients of 2011 JUBILEE scholarships:

- ◆ Christopher James Cornette: ARM's Waterworks, James Cornette
- ◆ Mary Catherine Dorn: Well Done Well Drilling, Leonard W Dorn Jr.
- ◆ Benjamin David McKinnon: Cherokee Well/ Mountain Water Works, David McKinnon
- ◆ Ala Halia Miller: H & H Well Drilling Co. Inc., Dentise Houck
- ◆ Louis Oren Vaught: EGIS PA, Mike Vaught

2011 NCGWA Scholars

The following students are recipients of 2011 NCGWA scholarships:

- ◆ Candace Raynell Brown: Yadkin Well Co., David Brown
- ◆ Lacey Marie Brown: Yadkin Well Co., David Brown
- ◆ Cassidy Lauren Mathis: AAA Greene Bros. WD of Sylva, Glenn Mathis Jr.
- ◆ Ala Halia Miller: H & H Well Drilling Co. Inc., Dentise Houck
- ◆ Kayla Elizabeth Russell, Russell Well Drilling, Chris Russell

(ATLANTA Continued from Page 6)

gpm +) is already in place statewide, but this regulation is more important in south Georgia, where well pumping may impact neighboring farms and even local surface water.

Wise use of ground water meets the three strategies (conserve, capture and control) of the Water Contingency Planning Task Force (Our Future Water Supply, September 2009, Metro Atlanta Chamber Monthly).

Conserve refers to reducing water demand; as more ground water is used, less surface water is needed. Capture refers to identification of new water sources, including reservoirs. The fractured bedrock aquifer, which is one of the reservoirs beneath the metro area, has always been there, however it has not been fully developed.

Control refers to policy changes to optimize how water is managed.

Ground-water policies should not hinder the reasonable-use development of the ground water beneath the metro area.

As the July 2012 deadline approaches, wise home owners and businesses should seek as much knowledge as possible before having a well drilled. Wake up, Atlanta, ground water is available, find it first, then drill and conserve our limited surface water.

VIRGIL BRUINEKOOL
Company Manager



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North Carolina Continuing Education Requirements Make Several Changes

Effective May 1, 2011, there are many changes to the continuing education requirements listed in the Chapter 27 Well Contractor Certification Rules. Below are just a few of those changes:

- ◆ The term professional development hours, also known as PDH, is being changed to the more common term, continuing education units, or CEU.
- ◆ A CEU is also more clearly defined as equivalent to 60 minutes of instructional time. Only instructional time is counted, not breaks.
- ◆ The eight PDH requirement has been dropped to six CEU, with carry-over hours also being reduced to six.
- ◆ First Aid, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Mine Safety, and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) Refresher classes may only be approved for CEU credit in odd-numbered certification periods. For example, July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012, is the “2011” certification period. Therefore, you will be able to use these courses taken during that time toward your recertification requirement.
- ◆ All courses must be pre-approved at least 30 days prior to the course date.
- ◆ Course approvals apply to the particular class submitted. Therefore, make sure all dates and locations for a course meet the requirement of being held during that certification period and are listed on the pre-approval request form.
- ◆ Course approvals expire June 30. If the same course will be held again in the next certification period, submit a separate request form for those dates.

Please take the time to read the revised rules as there are other changes that will be of interest to you.

Get To Know The Industry's Facts

Groundwater Plays A Major Role in N.C.'s Economic Vitality

- | | |
|---|--|
| ◆ 2,300,000 residents served by privately owned individual wells | ◆ 3,862 noncommunity, transient water systems use groundwater for 321,685 people |
| ◆ 2,067,728 residents served by groundwater supplied by 6,042 community water systems | ◆ 920 irrigation wells used serving 381 farms and 22,073 acres |
| ◆ 912,113 households served by privately owned individual wells | ◆ 317 firms employ an estimated 1,807 people |
| ◆ 479 noncommunity, nontransient water systems use groundwater for 133,558 people | ◆ Annual estimated sales of \$93,360,000 |
- Information based on U.S. surveys in 1997, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2009*

AVERAGE N.C. GAS PRICES

JUNE 2011: 3.609
 MAY 2011: 3.879
 JUNE 2010: 2.569

Source: AAA

AVERAGE N.C. DIESEL PRICES

JUNE 2011: 3.910
 MAY 2011: 4.020
 JUNE 2010: 2.920

Source: AAA