

Water Words

November 2008

A Letter from the President

This month is Thanksgiving. So take a few minutes to reflect upon all the things for which you are thankful.

How's your health? Not so good? Well, thank God you have lived this long. Many people haven't.

Are you hurting? Thousands, maybe millions, are hurting even more. If you woke up this morning and were able to hear the birds sing, use your vocal cords to utter human sounds, walk to the breakfast table on two good legs, read the newspaper with two good eyes, then praise the Lord! A lot of people couldn't.

Are you lonely? The way to have a friend is to be one.

Are you concerned about your country's future? Hooray! Your country may not be a rose garden, but neither is a patch of weeds. Freedom rings! Look and Listen! You can still worship at the church of your choice, cast a secret ballot, and even criticize your government without fearing a knock on your head or a knock on your door at midnight. And if you want to live under a different system, you are free to go. There are no walls or fences - nothing to keep you here.

Now, as a final thought. Thanksgiving fills me with inspiration, so I decided to jot down my thoughts. I think this describes the beautiful scenery all around us. When God created Western North Carolina, he made an area so diverse in natural wonders. There is no doubt this is His handiwork. This gorgeous area includes a mixture of forests, mountains, lakes, and waterfalls, and each view is a scene to savor. I know! I live in God's country!

Imagine the day God painted Western North Carolina. What a big job! "I'll begin with blue and paint the lakes and sky," He said. White was the next color as He touched the snow, and then moved on to the clouds. With a splash of green, He colored the leaves and grass. Touching His paintbrush into red, He colored the apple, the fiery sunset and the petals of the rose. When it came time to color the wheat, God selected the richest shade of gold! Purple must have been His favorite color. Yes, I think He like it best, for he cloaked His majestic mountains with purple wildflowers.

By now God was getting pretty tired so He mixed all the colors together and finished with a rainbow!

Yes, Thanksgiving does fill me with inspiration as I hope it does you. So let us be thankful and reflect upon all the positive things we have; health, family, friends, freedom and church. Thanksgiving should be every day and not just once a year.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and may God bless you and yours!

Jerry Merrill

Calendar of Events

NCGWA Trade Show and Continuing Education
January 30-31, 2009
Park Inn
Hickory, NC



Well Contractor Field Observation

North Carolina Well Contractor Certification underwent rule changes this year. As of May 1st well contractor certification split into four levels. As with the original certification, Level A covers all well contractor activities. Level A certification is required for air or mud rotary drilling.

To further ensure the competence of well contractors operating at this level, a field observation has been added to the Level A requirements for certification. There is no additional fee for the field observation and our exam fees have remained the same. Our office has received inquiries as to what this field observation involves. I hope this article addresses some of those questions.

Once a Level A application is approved, the applicant is notified of the approval and the need to schedule a field observation. The applicant is responsible for supplying the equipment (air or mud rotary) and location (within North Carolina) for the observation, and must plan to have a currently Level A certified well contractor present on the day of the observation (as the applicant is not yet certified to perform Level A activities on his/her own). The applicant contacts WCC staff to arrange a date and time to perform the observation at the selected site.

On the day of the observation, a Field Observer will meet the applicant at the selected site at an agreed upon time. If the applicant does not show up within 30 minutes of the agreed upon time, or fails the observation, he/she will need to reschedule another observation at least 90 days out from that date. The observer will be looking to see that the applicant is knowledgeable in proper rig set-up, approved well location (do you have your county permit?), rig operation (can you turn it on & run it?), rig safety (is the mast next to a power line?), driller safety (OSHA compliant, are you wearing safety toe boots?), drilling methods (are you paying attention to the rock layers for your GW-1?), etc.

After the field observation, the applicant will be notified of the results in writing. Upon successfully completing a field observation, the applicant is sent information on the next scheduled exam. Passing the written exam is the last step in obtaining Level A certification as a well contractor.

For a more detailed reference sheet on the Level A field observation, please visit our website at www.ncwelldriller.org and click on "get certified as a well contractor." If you do not have internet access or have further questions please contact our office at 919-733-0026.

Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Drug-tainted Water Affects More Than First Thought

Testing prompted by an Associated Press story that revealed trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies has shown that more Americans are affected by the problem than previously thought - at least 46 million.

That's up from 41 million people reported by the AP in March as part of an investigation into the presence of pharmaceuticals in the nation's waterways.

The AP stories prompted federal and local legislative hearings, brought about calls for mandatory testing and disclosure, and led officials in at least 27 additional metropolitan areas to analyze their drinking water. Positive tests were reported in 17 cases, including Reno, Nev., Savannah, Ga., Colorado Springs, Colo., and Huntsville, Ala. Results are pending in three others.

The test results, added to data from communities and water utilities that bowed to pressure to disclose earlier test results, produce the new total of Americans known to be exposed to drug-contaminated drinking water supplies.

The overwhelming majority of US cities have not tested drinking water while eight cities - including Boston, Phoenix and Seattle - were relieved that tests showed no detections.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.NCGROUNDWATER.COM OR WWW.NCGWA.ORG!**

McCall Award Winner Announced

The South Atlantic Well Drillers Jubilee presented David Hutson of Durham, North Carolina with its 2008 George McCall Award. Hutson, owner of Acme Well Company, was presented with the award at the Jubilee's Worth Pickard Family Picnic, July 27, 2008. The McCall Award is presented to a well drilling professional who has shown outstanding leadership in the well drilling industry in his state as well as in the industry at large.

Hutson has been an active member of the North Carolina Ground Water Association for nearly 20 years and has been active on the Board of Directors for 15 years. He served as association president from 2000 to 2002. In 2003, Hutson was appointed to the North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission, having been appointed by the speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Recently, Hutson has been instrumental in organizing NCGWA's legislative efforts regarding the use of private wells during drought conditions and maintaining reasonable parameters for the testing of private wells.

Hutson currently serves as a member of the South Atlantic Jubilee Board of Directors and is a member of the Services, Finance and Scholarship Committees.

Mr. Hutson is a third generation well driller who has been in the business since 1970.

The Human Sponge

Having grown up on a small farm, I know the importance of water - the river in which I swam, the creek that supplied water for our livestock, or the well that supplied our water for cooking, drinking or bathing. Nothing, not even climate change, will matter more to our future on this planet over the next century than the fate of our water supply. Although this is more about how we use water and about the staggering amount it takes to maintain our current lifestyle, it is also about how the world trades in food and crops.

The United States exports about 1/3 of our water each year with the trade of food and fibers to worldwide markets.

I am optimistic. However, can we fill the world's faucets and breadbaskets without emptying our water sources of this precious commodity?

Few of us realize how much water we use everyday. It may be true that an American consumes 100 gallons of water a day maintaining their life styles. Here are some mind-boggling statistics: It takes 25 gallons of water to produce a serving size of rice! For the bread for your sandwich - it takes 40 gallons of water for that wheat. It takes 130 gallons to produce the eggs for a 2 egg omelet. 265 gallons for a glass of milk to go with those cookies and 400 gallons of water to simply make a gallon of ice cream!

How about 500 gallons of water for a pork chop? Or 800 gallons of water for a hamburger (lettuce and tomato included) and a whopping 1320 gallons of H₂O for a T-Bone steak. So do you have a sweet tooth? 50 cups of water will produce a teaspoon of sugar, or 37 gallons of water are required to produce a glass of wine or a bottle of beer.

So surely, it is time to go out and preach the gospel on water conservation! But don't run and buy one of those t-shirts advertising "Save the World, Shower with a Friend!". Good message - bad idea. It takes roughly 25 bath tubs of water to grow the 9 ozs of cotton in the t-shirt you just bought!

Jerry Merrill, Fred Pearce



Congratulations to Chris Dickey of Cherokee Well Drilling & Pump in Murphy, and Buck Demarest of Bore & Core, Inc. in Raleigh for being appointed to the Well Contractors Certification Commission Board.

Congratulations to John Boyette, Jr. for Receiving the Dwight "Buster" Dellinger Honor Roll Award



The Price of Bottled Water

Why do we purchase so much of this miracle called bottled water that is packaged so pretty? After looking at this whole bottled water phenomenon, it has become harder to swallow!

More consumers buy bottled water because they believe it tastes better or because they believe it is safer. Many purchase it because of its convenient packaging.

Yet in blind taste tests, consumers can't taste the difference between tap water and bottled water! What's more, 40% of bottled water comes from public water sources. This water then comes back to you, packaged attractively and conveniently, and sold back to you at up to 4000 times the cost!

Since 2003, bottled water has become America's 2nd largest commercial beverage by volume. Just think, making all these bottles we drink from requires 17 million barrels of oil a year! That is enough to fuel more than 1 million cars annually! And that doesn't take into account the damage those empty bottles do to our environment. And all this for a product that we can get simply by turning on the tap at home or at work!

Various studies also show that bottled water is no healthier than tap water. I now know that some modern day version of a snake oil salesman may have his hand in my pocket for a large profit for a commodity that we have in our own homes.

We complain about \$3.95/gallon gasoline - what about the price of bottled water!

Jerry Merrill

We need your email address!!! In order to keep you updated on important issues we need to contact you quickly! Please call the NCGWA office at 919-876-0687 or email us at execman@att.net with your email address!



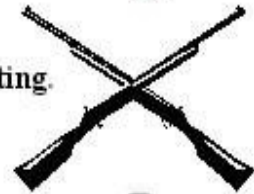
A Special Thank you to Brian Profitt with Wilco Hess
for donating gas cards to be raffled off at the
NCGWA booth at the Jubilee!

**Friday
after trade show.
Dinner following.**

GOING ONCE....GOING TWICE....SOLD!!

Join us for the Defense Fund Auction!

TV's, digital cameras, Ipods, portraits, sporting goods, vacation trips,
tools, pumps, tanks, drilling supplies....
these are just some of the great items we have at the auction.



Help protect our industry by donating items for this auction & participating.



During this past year, the funds from this auction were put to good use
and we were able to fight and defeat legislation
that would have put restrictions on private water wells!
We need your help to have the funds to fight future groundwater issues.

***A special thanks to
Drillers Service Inc. and Red Jacket Water Products
for sponsoring our dinner.***

*If you would like to make a donation to the auction, contact Kristie Waters at 1-800-999-9566
or send item information to the NCGWA at execman@att.net*

NCGWA Continuing Education Classes

Need to get your 8 hours of continuing education this year?
Make plans to attend one of our continuing education classes in April!
Classes are all day and include lunch in your registration!

Asheville, NC

April 17, 2009

Holiday Inn (Formerly Ramada Inn)

Wilson, NC

We will be holding a class in Wilson this coming year.
Please check future mailings and correspondence for dates.
Or check our website at www.ncgwa.org.

Do you know someone who needs their CE and is not a member of NCGWA?
Members get discounts for our classes so send them the application in this
newsletter and encourage them to join!

College Scholarships Available

Go to these websites or call for application & GOOD LUCK!

North Carolina Ground Water Association

919-876-0687

www.ncgwa.org

- * up to \$5,000
 - * for any member, child of a member, or grandchild of a member
 - * Deadline - April 15, 2009
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South Atlantic Well Drillers Jubilee

540-740-3329

www.well-drillers.com

- * up to twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships
 - * for any affiliate state association member (in good standing), child of that member, or grandchild of that member
 - * Deadline - March 1, 2009
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