On November 29, Bill Young became the 92nd chair of the Florida Section American Water Works Association at the section’s annual Fall Conference. He succeeds Grace Johns, Ph.D.

Bill is a lifelong resident of St. Augustine. He grew up surfing and water skiing in the beautiful waters of St. Johns County and developed a passion for its natural resources. He is very proud of his heritage as a fifth-generation St. Augustinian, and of the fact that his in-laws, wife, and both of his children were all born in the city.

Bill is a proud Florida Gator, like his father, and after completing his education in Gainesville, joined the Florida Air National Guard. He spent eight years in a combat engineering unit where he was trained in the water/wastewater career field and renewed his interest and commitment to environmental management.

In 1985, he went to work with the St. Johns County Utility Dept. as a water plant operator trainee. Eventually, he obtained his Class A operator’s license from the State of Florida and was named supervisor of water treatment for the utility. During this time, he commuted to the University of North Florida (Jacksonville) where he earned his master’s degree in public administration.

Bill was appointed the county’s second director of utilities by the county commission in 1998. Over the past 20 years, he and his staff have successfully dealt with many challenges inherent in one of the country’s fastest growing counties. The foundation of their success has been environmental stewardship, financial strength, and customer service.

In 1993, Bill applied for a scholarship that he read about in the Florida Water Resources Journal, and was awarded the Roy Likins Scholarship that year by Bob Claudy. As valuable as the cash award was in funding his graduate studies, the scholarship boosted Bill’s career in St. Johns County government and he began a 25-year relationship with the Florida Section.

Bill led efforts to organize and establish Region II for the section, and he also chaired the Likins Scholarship Committee and held several other leadership positions. In his hometown, he is past president of the St. Augustine Rotary Club and St. Johns ARC, and serves as an adjunct professor at Flagler College. Bill is married to Kathy, a school teacher, and is the father of two wonderful children, Georgia, 17, and Liam, 12.

Bill is very proud to be the first Likins Scholarship awardee to serve as chair of the Florida Section. “I have always tried to ‘pay back’ the section for all that it has given me in my career, but I will never be able to,” said Bill. “The section and the association have been so beneficial to my career, and I strongly encourage everyone in the water field to get involved! You will have fun, meet great people, and enhance your career, while volunteering your time to a tremendous organization that makes our world a better place!”

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Horror on Tap in St. Petersburg!

This year, the City of St. Petersburg sponsored a Halloween pumpkin decorating contest, and this pumpkin from the city’s water resources department won “Best Horror.”

Tajuanda May, the computer resources manager for the department, submitted the photo. “Designing and creating the pumpkin was a group effort,” said May, “and the team had lots of fun putting it together.”

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