Welcome & Introductions


What does Georgia Water Wise Council do?

- Increase public awareness of the value of sound water management practices, water conservation, and efficiency.
- Establish an education network through a consortium of government, educators, businesses, activities.
- Develop and encourage statewide conservation and efficiency standards and policy for Georgia's residents.

Goals for GWWC 2021:

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<th>2022 Goals</th>
<th>2023 Goals</th>
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<td>1. Meet bi-monthly</td>
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<td>2. Host Specialty Conference</td>
<td>2. Present at GAWP Annual Conference</td>
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<td>3. Present at GAWP Annual Conference</td>
<td>3. Win the Clean 13 Award (2023)</td>
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<td>4. Plan to Win the Clean 13 Award</td>
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Presentation (10 minutes): Georgia Green Landscape Stewards certification program, Laura C. Ney, Athens-Clarke County Extension/UGA

https://site.extension.uga.edu/georgiagreen/

Suggested ways to get involved:

- inform and educate the public about GGLS
- share video links on utility website
- teaching about native plant courses, drip irrigation, rain water harvesting, etc.
- encourage residents to get certified – if they are putting in a smart yard, why not get certified, too?
- include recognition in newsletters – how would we know they earned certification?
- This is geared to SFR, but Celine wondered if there was anything planned for MFR – businesses offices, a state park, extension offices, and a few others outside of SFR have gotten certified
- Is this only for those who are installing a new neighborhood or open to those who already have an existing garden? Answer: for both – established can see what they meet on the checklist and add to it
- Extension hopes to add more “how-to” videos
- Lanie says there are a few additional certifications available to their landscape clients and this could be easily added to their offerings
- Modeled program off of Florida Friendly Landscapes - look for something called “Flip My Yard”
- Considering more partnerships with industry and government officials
Everyone should download the PDF and score their yards & bring to the next meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Clean 13: What are specific actions can we take over the next year to be intentional about winning this award? Ansley Jones, Mary Kay Woodworth, Bryan Tolar

Focus on education:
- Look to bring the plumbing industry into Water Wise Council membership to promote efficiency
- Have citizens identify their local drinking water source
- Make commercial water audit training available & encourage certification
- Specialty Conference
- Contact Ben Emmanuel (American Rivers) or Chris Manganiello (Chattahoochee Riverkeeper) to advocate for us

Conferences: We will fill a session during the GAWP Annual Conference, Savannah Convention Center

Programs Committee Liaison: NEED A VOLUNTEER

♦ GAWP Annual Conference Follow Up – Lead: Bryan Tolar (?)

Theme: Water Matters (water matters, and the water professionals matter)

Abstracts Due – NEW DATE: March 31, 2022, using Presenter Portal

Presenters:
1. Kathy Nguyen & Brian Skeens – on G480 standards
2. Water Efficiency Planning in the Metro Atlanta Region, Celine Benoit
   (This presentation will detail the Districts planning efforts to promote water efficiency for residents, local utilities, and throughout the Metro Atlanta area)
3. Martin Wunderly – has outreach program that deals with property GA Green Landscape stewardship program, presenting at Wintergreen
4. Bryan Tolar (the concept guy - not presenting)/Mary Kay Woodworth – segment of best place to use what grass
   (Outdoor water conservation is taking on a new look as improved plant varieties are increasingly introduced into the consumer marketplace. A panel of outdoor plant experts addresses opportunities for all landscapes to save water.)

Moderator: Marilyn or Bryan – arm wrestle

AWE membership – email Laurie Loftin – laurel.loftin@accgov.com - if you would like membership access to see available resources

♦ Opportunity: Table at Conferences

Spring Conference, April 12 & 13, Dalton – Lead: Laurie Loftin – Laurie will see if she can go

Specialty Conference: Winter 2022, 4-6 hours, Lead:

♦ Change to Winter 2022 – Collected topic ideas
  - Developing a Water Conservation Plan (46%), Conservation & Drought Messaging (42%), Drought Preparedness (41%)
  - Discuss potential presenters:
    - Lisa & Michelle Maddaus - Water Management System – keep in mind they are west coast based and more region specific -
- GA EPD person? (Nicole Wright – she recommends that whoever is reviewing the plan, you have to be adamant about requesting the checklist)
- North Metro Water District?
- Bill Hoffman? (Texas) (from Nicole: If you cannot get Bill, Try to get the Water Supply Manager. It was previously Nap Caldwell.)
- Doug Miell (pronounced Mile) - Miell Consulting
  Doug Miell dougmieell@gmail.com
- Check with AWE to see if they have plans and/or recommendation for speaker
  - Virtual or in-person – decided to consider hybrid offering
  - Can we find a sponsor? Maddaus will be <5k Thoughts?
  - Form sub-committee/ DreamTeam – Steve Williams, Mary Kay Woodworth, Bryan Tolar, Laurie Loftin, Marilyn Hall (?), Kristen Howard

**Communication:** *What will members find beneficial on the website?*

- **GWWC Website** – Laurie will continue to add – send links or items to include
- **Promotional Items** – Lead: Kristen Howard, Laurie Loftin
  - Need GWWC promotional items for conferences – Ideas for items? Reusable straws, big prize for raffle, yardsticks, rain gauges, flashlights – GOAL: to have for the spring conference
  - Costs/Budget? Pass order to Angela for payment

**Georgia Operator:** What topic should we share with GAWP membership to promote water efficiency?

- **Topics & Deadlines:**
  - Thank you to Pam Knox, Flash Drought - Submitted
  - Spring 2022: Due January 3 – Lanie Riner, Right Plant, Right Place
  - Summer 2022: Due April 4 – Mary Kay Woodworth will write summer on turf grass and water conservation
  - Fall 2022: Due date? – volunteer:

- **News & Notes:** Laurie will submit items
  - Ideas include water conservation tips, join GWWC, drought, etc.

**Awards:**

- **Fox McCarthy Award Winner – NO nominations so far**
  *This award will be given to project or program implemented by a water provider (even years) and a water user (odd years) on alternating years. The evaluation criteria is based on planning, execution, effectiveness, innovation, transferability, and assurance of longevity.* **Submission late January – Award presented Spring Conference**

- **Phil Karr Award – DISCUSS potential nominations**
  *The Phil Karr Water Wise Award will recognize an individual that has made a great contribution to water conservation in Georgia. Any member of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) or the Georgia Water Wise Council (GWWC) can nominate an individual for an award. **Nominations May 1 – Award presented Annual Conference**
2022 Recipient: Need to begin considering nominations

- Create sub-committee to review award descriptions and applications
  - Who would like to lead?
  - Fox McCarthy page: https://www.gawp.org/page/FoxMcCarthy

Legislation & Permitting: What legislation and policy are being developed related to drought/conservation that GWWC should be aware of? Lead: Bryan Tolar

- Legislative Committee Liaison: Need a volunteer

NEW BUSINESS

Commercial Water Audit Trainings

Plumbing & installations:

- Discussed exploring training for building inspectors or plan reviewers.
- Can we make a few small videos that offer training for them to know how to check to ensure the plumbing fixtures being installed are following plumbing code?
- Person at the homebuilding group needs to know to look and to make sure they are getting what they ordered/sending back incorrect orders.
- Look to present at homebuilders association conference, GA Association of Homebuilders? Association for Building Inspections or Planners?

Future Topics to Tackle:

- Survey: What information do utilities, NGOs, and green industry lack that we can provide?
- Messaging: How do you communicate a need for water-efficiency during times of water wealth? Reach out to mayors and commissioners at annual meetings and training workshops.
- Water Conservation Plan: Any EPD planned changes? GWWC provide input?
- GCLP & QWEL?: Can these two landscaper certifications be combined for Georgia?

Water Cooler: Any ideas, comments, thoughts to improve future meetings, increase membership, or want to get off your chest?

Next meeting: March 21?

Jokemaster: Tell a joke to end our meeting