Welcome & Introductions

Share the scores of our home landscapes based on criteria in the Georgia Green Landscape Stewards certification program – Look to see if your county water facilities, parks, and other buildings qualify for certification


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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Fix a Leak Week Wrap-Up (10 minutes): If you participated in EPA WaterSense’s Fix a Leak Week, share a few items you did that went well – Proposed Goal – Utilities & Green Industry collaborate to promote Fix a Leak Week in 2023?

Discussion: At WINTERGREEN, they integrate education into the workshops – a section of GGIA that caters to the contractors and is the most active way to reach them – GA Urban Ag Council – both tend to work with the contractors and it is more challenging to reach the consumer level – tough to penetrate, but working to make consumers aware of new water-efficient technology – Celine is wondering if there is current educational info out there for customers that is being shared already – she wondered what they would like to have before we create – she mentioned the irrigation materials Metro District had for Fix a Leak

Fix a Leak Week Highlights: Celine’s Water Drop Dash had over 700 participants - Amy – should get more info out there to consumers about irrigation leaks, which can be a big expense for homeowners – brought up a good point that Sprinkler Spruce Up already covers much of this material and we don’t need to reinvent the wheel – could do a better job of promoting Sprinkler Spruce UP Bryan – likes the idea of Fix a Leak Week and Fix a Leak anytime – op-ed for Urban Ag Council, GGIA, or others that can be turned into a one-pager for contractors – mentions Clark Howard and his simple tips, perhaps having something similar to advise consumers to check the easy tasks, applicable to a broad group
TAKEAWAY: We will discuss with landscapers during WINTERGREEN to learn what would be helpful for them

TOPICS

Conferences: We will fill a session during the GAWP Annual Conference, Savannah Convention Center
Programs Committee Liaison: NEED A VOLUNTEER

♦ GAWP Spring Conference – April 12 & 13, Dalton
Register by March 29 to receive the early-bird discount
GWWC will not have a presence

♦ GAWP Annual Conference
Theme: Water Matters (water matters, and the water professionals matter)
Due: March 31, 2022, speaker selections (SEND TO LAURIE BY MARCH 30: speaker name, speaker email, presentation title) – will populate the speaker portal closer to the conference date

Presenters:
1. Landscape Water Conservation; New Plants have Big Impact - Bryan Tolar/Mary Kay Woodworth – segment of best place to use what grass – Bryan will circle back with me for a revised title
(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.)

2. Water Efficiency Planning in the Metro Atlanta Region, Celine Benoit
Celine will circle back with a title
(This presentation will detail the Districts planning efforts to promote water efficiency for residents, local utilities, and throughout the Metro Atlanta area)

3. Georgia Green Landscape Stewards Program by Georgia Cooperative Extension - Martin Wunderly – has outreach program that deals with property GA Green Landscape stewardship program, presenting at Wintergreen

HOLD FOR NEXT YEAR: Kathy Nguyen & Brian Skeens – on G480 standards

Moderator: Amy Warnock?? Debbie Gordon may be able to moderate if doesn’t overlap with Groundwater

Table Opportunity at Annual: ?? Martin suggests we create shifts for the table and he says he may be able to handle a few hours at the table, Bryan could possibly take a few hours

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

♦ December 2022 – Developing a Water Conservation Plan
  o Potential presenters:
    ▪ Lisa & Michelle Maddaus – review proposal
    ▪ GA DNR person?
    ▪ North Metro Water District?
  o Virtual or in-person – decided to consider hybrid offering
  o Want to lock down a date soon
- Will start advertising late summer
- 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

Conversation: Celine spoke about her work with the Maddaus – the benefit-cost analysis was on the fixture level, an action level basis and how it applied to their specific plumbing code – she does think what is proposed looks more broad stroked – they can be more regional & we would have to refine it to what is best to our geographic area – she thinks some of the broader topics are good – could be that we could find someone locally to cover key definitions, program basics – find out from other utilities what they have struggled with and direct the topic to their needs
Amy clarifying our audience – what they would need to know is the regulatory requirements, hear from other utilities what they do that is helpful – her personal feeling is that it needs to be exactly what our people need when we are spending this money
Celine suggests we take a few days to review the proposals and get feedback from others, perhaps share others who can contribute their expertise
Timeline: by next Monday, review proposal give me feedback by email – short survey to send to GWWC members to put out feelers at to what we think is important to cover & share contacts who could possibly speak so it is more regional and applicable to our needs

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

- **Topics & Deadlines:**
  - Spring 2022: Lanie Riner, Right Plant, Right Place – follow up with her
  - Summer 2022: **Due April 4** – Mary Kay Woodworth will write summer on turf grass and water conservation
  - Fall 2022: **Due July 11** – Martin Wunderly - water conservation in the landscape – short, page & a half with photos – how to organize your landscape and maintain it to deal with water conservation – what could be done in the long-run to re-arrange your landscape design
  - Winter 2023: **September 19** – Amy Warnock - topic idea – winterizing home plumbing, holding winterization workshops for customers

- **News & Notes:** Laurie will submit items – She has failed miserably at this
  - Ideas include water conservation tips, join GWWC, drought, etc.
  - Angela says, whatever we come up with is usually fine - about ½ page – is typically a short blurb from committees to share hints/tips, encourage membership, advertising events

**Awards:**

- **Fox McCarthy Award Winner – One nomination:** Gainesville Water Resources
  
  This award will be given to a project or program implemented by a water provider (even years) and a water user (odd years) on alternating years. The evaluation criteria are based on planning, execution, effectiveness, innovation, transferability, and longevity assurance. 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

Conversation: Can look into rewriting the award guidelines - Tom says that historically this has been fuzzy for the Fox McCarthy – the Phil Karr award has been given sporadically –

Send application for review – Angela needs us to know by Friday -

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 – join Legislative Committee and attend meetings to keep GWWC updated on matters related to conservation and drought

KEEP EYES OPEN: Bryan says the House Natural Resources Committee will be coming out with a few resolutions looking at the legislation the General Assembly has taken on over the past years as it relates to water conservation and water supply in the next few years – only resolution & messaging – public testimony could be an opportunity for GWWC to promote our works

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: What makes GWWC unique is it is the only organization that actively unites the water utilities, Georgia Green Industry Association, and NGOs to promote year-round water-efficiency measures outside of drought

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 – THANK YOU, KRISTEN!
  - Costs/Budget? Pass order to Angela for payment

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?

*Bryan Tolar suggests we have more conversation about plant health – pesticides & fertilizer is not always a negative -

*Kristen Howard – asked about the upcoming PG&E workshop on how to conduct commercial water audits – find the date and send to group

**Next meeting:** We will hold our next meeting during the GGIA WINTERGREEN Expo, June 23, 10:00 – 11:30 – need to RSVP about a week before for badges to be made for participants to enter – will take a tour of the exhibit hall