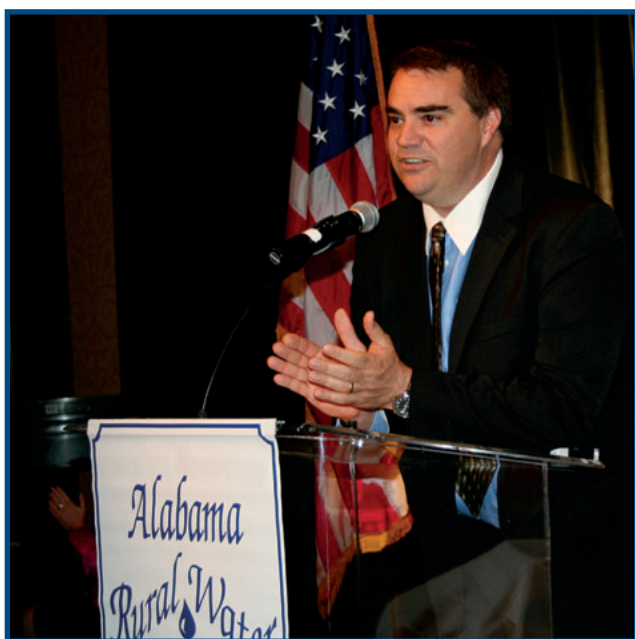


Alabama's

WATER PROFESSIONALS

ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION'S 21ST ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

..... By: George Marodis, Source Water Specialist



William Snyder, General Manager of the Monroeville Water Works is the Master of Ceremonies at the 21st Annual Awards Luncheon

The Alabama Rural Water Association exists to assist those in the Public Water Utility Profession with their efforts to provide clean, safe and affordable drinking water to their customers. Who am I talking about when I use the word: those? "Those" are the unsung heroes of the public water utility industry. They are the Water Utility Board Members, the Managers and Superintendents, the Water Operators, the Wastewater Operators, the Meter Readers, the Water Clerks, Billing Clerks and Office Staff. How many times do you think about "those" people that are involved in the process of providing your family with safe drinking water? If you're like me, you don't think about them often enough unless a problem arises.

I have lived at my residence going on twelve years and in those twelve years I have had access to clean, safe drinking water 24/7 without a hitch! Why is that? It's because "those" water professionals behind the scenes are checking wells and surface intakes, checking chlorine residuals, finding and fixing leaks at all hours of the night, replacing critical components, completing well reports, taking BAC-T samples, preparing MOR's, CCR's, DMR's etc. The net result is that for most of us, the delivery of safe, clean water to our faucets is as certain as death and taxes.

While we tend to mostly focus on the water side, let's not forget "those" professionals working on the wastewater side at the wastewater treatment plants treating wastewater as it comes in to the plants and is converted into a much cleaner and environmentally safe effluent as it exits the treatment plants and is discharged into the environment in a manner that ensures a cleaner environment and safer drinking water supply for all.

A professional can be characterized as one that makes a complicated task look easy, that's what Alabama's Water Professionals do! It's why you may have heard someone say that water is so plentiful, it should be free!! If they could look behind the scenes and see how much work is involved in producing that water, I think they would realize the true value in that water and respect the expertise of "those" professionals that deliver the water to their homes.

It is some of "those" water professionals that the Alabama Rural Water Association recognized during its 21st Annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

The following classifications were recognized at ARWA's 21st Annual Awards Ceremony:

- Water Operator of the Year
- Wastewater Operator of the Year
- Office Worker of the Year

**OVERALL THE 21ST ARWA
AWARDS LUNCHEON WAS A
HUGE SUCCESS WITH A RECORD
NUMBER CROWD IN ATTENDANCE.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE NOMINEES!



From Left to Right, Rick Lyle with the Utilities Board of the City of Oneonta, Cathy Daily with the Southwest Alabama Water Authority, Bobbie Cox with Bear Creek Water Works, Brenda Jones with Old Line Water Authority, Hazel McGowan with the City of Samson, Anthony Windom with the Valley Head Water Works Board
Not Pictured: Jason Evans, Spanish Fort Water and Anita Trantham, Calhoun County Water Authority



L to R Kathy Horne, Executive Director ARWA, Anthony Windom, Valley Head Water Works Board, William Snyder, General Manager, Monroeville Water Works.

WATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a State of Alabama Certified Water Treatment Operator with outstanding leadership abilities and accomplishments in water utility operations.

The Winner of the Water Operator of the Year is Anthony Windom with the Valley Head Water Works Board. Anthony began his career as a water professional with Valley Head 21 years ago. Anthony holds a Grade III Water Operators License and he is responsible for finding and repairing leaks, installing new service connections, taking water samples, responding to customer requests about their water service, maintaining pumps, maintaining the chlorination equipment, etc.

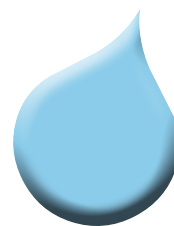
Anthony is proficient in operating a backhoe, a trencher and he has even been seen directing traffic during emergencies. It is obvious that Anthony is well liked and respected by those that work with him as evidenced by some of their comments: "

"No matter what the situation, he always gets the job done" – Pam Dean, Clerk.

"He always gives 100% and always wants his customers to be happy" – Doris Chamlee, Customer.

"He always goes out of his way to be sure he does an excellent job on everything he does" – Lisa Smith, Office Manager.

Anthony is married to Judy Thompson Windom and they have one son, Ben. Thanks to Ben and his wife Laura, Anthony and his wife Judy are soon to become proud grandparents. Congratulations Anthony!





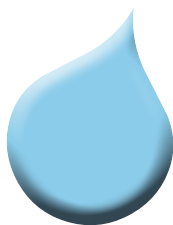
L to R Kathy Horne, Executive Director ARWA; Ricky Lyle, Utilities Board of the City of Oneonta; William Snyder, General Manager, Monroeville Water Works.

WASTEWATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a State of Alabama Certified Wastewater Treatment Operator with outstanding leadership abilities and accomplishments in wastewater utility operations.

The Winner of the Wastewater Operator of the Year is Ricky Lyle with the Utilities Board of the City of Oneonta. Ricky has been active in the Wastewater Industry for over twenty years! Early in his career, Ricky was an employee of the Novus Utility Services, Inc. (a part of Southwest Water Company) where he started as a Treatment Plant Operator. After a few years, he progressed to Plant Manager. While at Novus, his duties included identifying operational deficiencies in various treatment systems, determining the required corrective actions to be implemented and establish operational plans and protocols that would ultimately result in consistent permit compliance for those systems.

Ricky was the Plant Manager for the Utilities Board of the City of Oneonta for five years while working for Novus. For the past seven years, Ricky has been employed as Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment by the Utilities Board of the City of Oneonta. He is fully certified as a Grade IV Wastewater Operator for the State of Alabama. His duties include the operation and maintenance of Oneonta's wastewater treatment plant and ten pumping stations. For twelve years, Ricky has managed the Oneonta Wastewater Plant and has been able to meet the permit requirements with minimal difficulties. Congratulations Ricky!



L to R Kathy Horne, Executive Director ARWA; Hazel McGowan, City of Samson; William Snyder, General Manager, Monroeville Water Works.

OFFICE WORKER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes an administrative employee for outstanding performance in office management and procedures

The Winner of the Office Worker of the Year goes to Hazel McGowan with the City of Samson. Hazel began her employment with the City of Samson in 1975. She was promoted to City Clerk in 1997. The City of Samson purchased their first computer in 1996, For the 21 years prior to that, Hazel calculated all water bills "by hand". During that time, she maintained accurate accounts for each customer. In 1996, Hazel was able to utilize the computer for account maintenance and to generate water bills. She mastered several billing software programs and in 2011 to further modernize the City of Samson she was instrumental in the procurement of radio read meters.

Hazel played a vital role in obtaining more than 10 grants for the utility. In 1980, a grant was obtained that allowed the City of Samson to provide a three cell lagoon for wastewater treatment. Hazel helped obtain additional grants that were utilized for the construction of a new tank and water well. With those improvements the City of Samson was able to provide water service to an additional four adjoining communities. Congratulations Hazel!



Above, Hundreds fill the Ball Room at the Awards Luncheon



The ARWA Member Water Utilities in Alabama select one person from each of 10 Districts within the State to represent their utility on the ARWA

Board of Directors. These individuals serve a 4 year term and volunteer many hours annually overseeing the Association interests of the water utilities throughout the State. To receive the most current information and to better serve the utility members, the Board of Directors pictured participated in the NRWA Board Member Training Course provided during a previous NRWA Annual Conference. Following the course which provided specific information relative to Non-Profit Association policy and management, the Board Members tested and successfully completed the course. Many thanks to William Snyder, District 7; Isaac Howard, District 3; Mark Bohlin, District 9; and James Dixon, District 10 for your dedication to the Rural Water Program. Also attending the Board Training Course but not testing was Randolph Hall, District 8 and Luke Rice, District 4. Congratulations to all of you!



L to R, Mark Bohlin, Perdido Bay Water & FPA, William Snyder, Monroeville Water Works, James Dixon, Geneva Water Works & Sewer Board, Isaac Howard, Margaret Water Works Board

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



WATER UNIVERSITY

Today, the water and wastewater industry is more complex than ever before. Economics, increased complexity in regulatory requirements and a changing society are crafting the water and wastewater systems of tomorrow. As our industry changes, there is a strong need to recognize the individuals who provide leadership to the industry and create a standard for the future. At the same time, the industry needs new ways to educate, train and empower industry professionals to meet these new standards.

Consequently, The National Rural Water Association has implemented the Water University Program. The intent of Water University and the

National Rural Water Association is to provide the highest level of instruction, education, training and discussion to the largest audience possible. To meet that goal, most of the webinar/lecture portions of these courses are presented at low or no cost.

The Alabama Rural Association would like to recognize some of those individuals that have taken and completed various courses through the Water University.



L to R, Franklin Buzbee, ARWA Andrew Crawford, ARWA, Darren Slaughter, North Baldwin Utilities, Rob White, ARWA, Mike Baumgartner, ARWA for the completing the Utility Management Course.

ARWA 4 WHEELER GIVEAWAY

AND THE WINNER IS BRENT BROWN WITH THE LIMESTONE COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY



Left, Chris Lovelace, ARWA prepares to announce the winner of the Grand Prize Honda Four Wheeler at the luncheon.



Kathy Horne with Brent Brown, winner of the Honda Four Wheeler