

# BEST TASTING WATER IN

# Alabama



*Who has the Best Tasting Water in the State of Alabama?*

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

Does your utility produce the Best Tasting Water in Alabama? Well, if you did not enter the Alabama Rural Water Associations Water Taste Test Competition held on Tuesday March 12, 2012 then we will never know how it would compare against the competition. However, for those twenty two utilities that entered the competition one sample of water was chosen as "The Best Tasting Water in Alabama".

A utility is only eligible to enter the Taste Test competition if they meet ADEM approval having no violations of bacteriological or chemical monitoring violations. A panel of judges scrutinized the water samples based on Taste, Clarity and Odor.



*The judges carefully inspect some water samples from L to R Ronnie Wyatt, USDA Rural Development, Leigha Cauthen, Alabama Agribusiness Council, Jordan Barrett, Alabama Cattleman's Association*



The winner of the Alabama Rural Water Associations 2012 Water Taste Test is the **West Etowah County Water Authority**.

Along with "Bragging Rights" the winner will receive one round trip ticket to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Drinking Water Taste Test in February 2013. The West Etowah County Water Authority currently serves 2,300 households. West Etowah provides water from one well and one spring which produces from the Tuscombina Lime. In addition West Etowah's well appears to be producing from the Tuscombina Limestone Aquifer. The utility has seven water storage tanks with a combined storage capacity of 910,000 gallons of water. The Authority has 175 miles of main line pipe.

Having the best tasting drinking water in Alabama is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the West Etowah County Water Authority Management and Staff. Congratulations West Etowah County Water Authority.



From L to R Steve Jennings, West Etowah County Water, Kathy Horne, ARWA, Roger Kimbril and Jim Mayo, West Etowah County Water.

The West Etowah Water Authority is governed by the following Board Members:

**Roger Kimbril- Chairman**

**Steve Jennings- Vice Chairman**

**Sally Hathcock- Secretary**

**Roger Smith- Board Member**

The West Etowah Water Authority office is staffed by the following:

- **Kenny Smith- Superintendent**

- **Jim Mayo- Operator**

- **Sally Hathcock- Office Manager**

- **Barbie Cleveland- Office Staff**

- **Donna Purkey- Office Staff**

- **Stacy Thompson- Office Staff**

- **Barry (BO) Davenport- Field Maintenance**

- **Ethan Ashley- Field Maintenance**

- **Bobby Huff- Field Maintenance**

The runner up in the "Taste Test" competition was the **Douglas Water Authority** located in Marshall County. The Douglas Water Authority supplies drinking water to approximately 5,500 households. The utility has three wells that produce from the Tuscombina Limestone Aquifer. Douglas Water has approximately 150 miles of pipe and enough storage capacity to hold approximately 7.5 million gallons of water. If a representative of the taste test winner cannot make the trip to Washington, D.C., then a representative from the runner up utility will be given the opportunity to participate at the national level. Congratulations to the Douglas Water Authority!



Kathy Horne, ARWA with David Smith, Douglas Water Authority

