

ALABAMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

31st ANNUAL TECHNICAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



WHO HAS THE BEST DRINKING WATER?



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System Spotlight

Best Tasting Water in Alabama

By: George Marodis, USDA Source Water Protection Specialist

On March 15th through March 18th, 2009 the Alabama Rural Water Association Annual Technical Training Conference was held in Montgomery, Alabama, at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center.

The Water Taste Test is one of the most exciting activities that is held during the Conference. Water utilities from the entire State of Alabama are invited to submit samples of their water for the competition. Twenty-Two utilities throughout the State entered the competition meeting preliminary qualifications of having no chemical or monitoring violations. The water was judged on the following criteria:

- Taste
- Clarity
- Odor

The Judges for the competition were Fred Sheldon with the National Rural Water Association, Ed Jackson, Alabama Department of Environmental Management and Allen Bowen, USDA Rural Development. Preliminary judging allowed an opportunity for the water system entries to be reduced to the following six finalists:

- Daphne Utility Board
- East Central Baldwin County Water & FPA
- Eufaula Water Works & Sewer Board



Above, Jerena Webb with the Alabama Rural Water Association brings additional water samples for the judges to sample. From left to right Ed Jackson, Allen Bowen, Jerena Webb, ARWA and Fred Sheldon.

- Irondale Water System
- Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians Utility Authority

Final judging continued during the Rural Water Country Luncheon

where over 500 attendees gathered to await the judge's selection. When the last taste test sample was judged and the ratings were calculated, the 2009 Water Taste Test Winner was announced. *Congratulations to the Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & Fire Protection District!*



The Perdido Bay Water, Sewer and Fire Protection District is a Non Profit Organization that was incorporated August of 1973 for the purpose of delivering clean, safe drinking water to the communities

Kathy Horne, ARWA and Mark Bohlin, Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD.



Back row left to right, Tony Allen, Operator; Kim Thomas, Office Manager; Dawn Spivey, Office Clerk; Bruce Hartman, Superintendent; Greg Gates, Operator.

Front row left to right, Mark Bohlin, General Manager; Mike Fitts, Operator; Mac Burt, Operator; Kathleen Mitchell, Office Clerk.

*Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD Board (not pictured)
Bill Waller- Chairman
Adm. William Mathis- Vice Chairman
Larry Chason- Board Member
Jean Ray- Board Member
Dr. Rucker Staggers- Board Member*

of Lillian and Perdido Beach. The District started delivering water to its first customers in 1978. Over the years the District has taken in the community of Josephine and un-incorporated areas of Elberta. In 1997 the District bought the Spanish Cove Water System and expanded its lines on the western boundaries of the district on County Road 20. It was at this time that the District added a well on County Road 95 that is capable of delivering 1,000,000 gallons of water per day and constructed a 500,000 gallon elevated water storage tank. At this time the district has three wells with a pumping capacity of 2,520,000 gallons of water per day and three water tanks with a storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons. The District currently serves a population of approximately 3,100. The District is governed, managed and operated by a five member Board of Directors and a staff of nine employees.

The runner up in the "Water Taste Test" competition was the East Central Baldwin County Water & FPA located in Robertsedale, Alabama,

Baldwin County. East Central supplies drinking water to approximately 1,600 people. East Central has two ground water wells and has enough storage capacity to hold 600,000 gallons of water.

Congratulations to the Perdido Bay Water and the East Central Baldwin Water Systems. As a result of winning the "Taste Test" at the ARWA Conference, a representative from the Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD received a round trip airline ticket to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Drinking Water Contest held on April 20, 2009. The competition was strong and resulted in a run-off but Perdido Bay Water, Sewer

& FPD was named the Winner! Congratulations to Perdido Bay Water, Sewer & FPD Board of Directors and staff for bringing home the National Drinking Water Taste title and the gold medal. The National Water Taste Test was covered by several televised media outlets. More details to come in the next magazine. ●



Kathy Horne, with the ARWA, and Charles Hall, East Central Baldwin County Water & FPA.