



Fall 2017 News

The 2018 Water Conservation Calendars Are Here!

Each year the Clackamas River Water Providers holds a coloring contest with local elementary schools within our service areas to create an annual Water Conservation Calendar. The theme for the 2018 calendar was “How I Can Protect and Conserve My Drinking Water”. Students were encouraged to create pictures depicting what they had learned about their water and what they can do to both conserve and protect it.

This year we had 21 classes from 12 different schools participate in the contest with over 600 entries. From all the submitted entries, thirteen pictures were chosen and posted on the CRWP website so the community could vote for which one of the thirteen pictures would be on the cover of the calendar. Each school that had at least one class participate in the contest will receive a box of calendars (125) to give out to family and friends or to use as fundraisers. Additional calendars are distributed throughout Clackamas River Water Provider members, city halls, libraries, and offices.

Calendars are available upon request by calling us at **(503) 723-3511** or email christine@clackamasproviders.org.

What's Inside:

Calendars Here!	P1
Water Audit	P2
Fall Quiz	P2
Emergency Water	P3
Winter Prep	P4
'Faces' Interview	P5
Three Programs	P6
River Clean-up	P7
'Faces' <i>continued</i>	P8

The 2018 Calendar Winners:

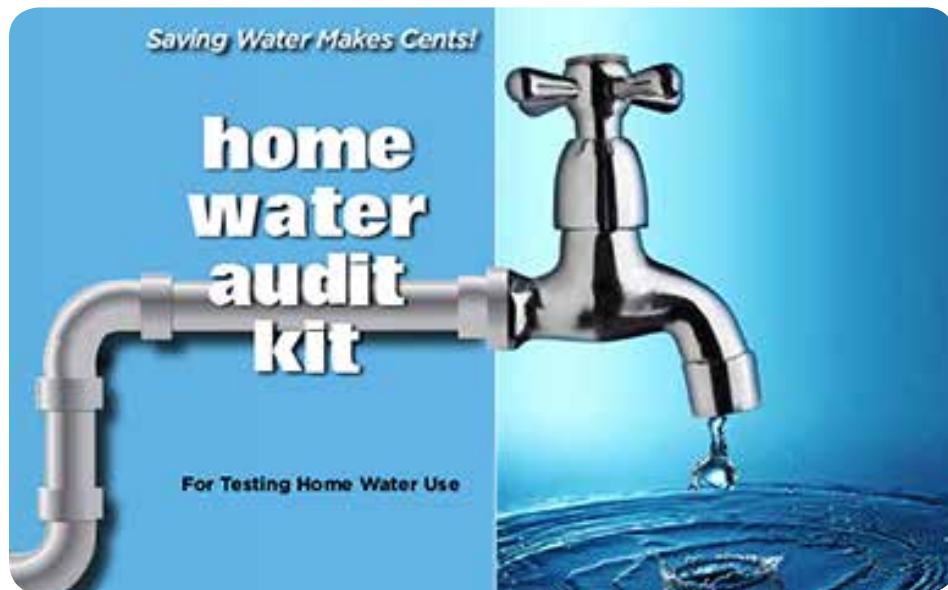


This year's calendar cover winners are Alexis Clark, age 10 & Claire Furness, age 10, from Mrs. Harrington, 4th grade class at Holcomb Elementary.



Christine Hollenbeck Public Education and Conservation Program Coordinator **(503) 723-3511**, christine@clackamasproviders.org
 Kim Swan Water Resource Manager **(503) 723-3510**, kims@clackamasproviders.org

Indoor Home Water Audit Kit



The Clackamas River Water Providers has a FREE Indoor Home Water Audit Kit to help you figure out how much water you are using and ways you can save.

Conducting an audit is simple, it will help you locate leaks so you can prioritize fixing them, and identify which fixtures may need to be upgraded to new low flow fixtures so you can start saving water and money today.

Indoor Home Water Audit Kit Includes:

- **Audit Kit Instructions** – This brochure will guide you through the steps of how to conduct an indoor home water audit.
- **Flow Meter Bag** – Use this bag to measure how much water your household fixtures (kitchen faucet, showerhead, bathroom faucet) use.

- **Drip Gauge** – Use this to measure drips around your house. Even a seemingly small drip can waste a lot of water. This gauge will give you an idea just how much that might be.

- **Leak Detection Tablets** – Use these tablets to see if your toilet has a leak.

For more information, to request a kit, free low-water using devices for your home, or to participate in the CRWP water conservation rebate program*, visit us at www.clackamasproviders.org or call **(503) 723-3511**.

* These members do not participate in the CRWP Water Conservation Program: Clackamas River, Water, City of Lake Oswego, and City of Tigard.



Fall Quiz:

Answers - Can be found on page 6

1. CRWP offers reimbursement to those who need help with septic system repairs.

- A. False. It is fully up to the owner.
- B. True. 10% of total is available.
- C. True. 25% of total is available.
- D. True. 50%, or up to \$1000 total is available.

2. How many entries did we receive this year for the 2018 Water Calendar Art Contest?

- A. Just a handful.
- B. 243 entries.
- C. Over 600 entries
- D. We never counted them.

3. In an Emergency, how many gallons of water can be accessed from your water heater?

- A. None. This water is not potable.
- B. 30-60g are usually available.
- C. Only 20 gallons are usable from the cold section only.
- D. Thousands of gallons coming from throughout your home and into the street.

4. In what month does the Annual River Clean-up occur?

- A. May
- B. July
- C. September
- D. Changes each year

How to Access Water From Your Water Heater

In an emergency, such as a severe winter storm or an earthquake, your home's water service may be temporarily unavailable. In this case, your home's water heater could provide you with 30-80 gallons of potable water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene.

Before accessing water from your water heater:

1. Locate your water heater: Water heaters are located in the basement or garage of most homes, and in closets of apartments and manufactured homes.

2. Determine what type of water heater you have: Most water heaters are powered by electricity or natural gas. You can tell the difference because gas heaters typically have a vent on the top of the heater, a pilot light, and a gas line located at the bottom.

Instructions for accessing water from your water heater:

1. Turn off your heater's power source. This step is crucial to ensuring your safety. You may want to keep a flash light, safety goggles, and a screw driver in an easily accessible location near the water heater.

a. Electric water heaters: Shut off your heater's power by flipping the correct switch on your electrical panel. Identifying the correct circuit breaker beforehand is recommended.

b. Natural gas heaters: Locate the on/off switch on the heater and turn the knob to the pilot setting - do not turn it completely off.

2. Locate the water shut-off valve and turn it clockwise until it stops. This valve is typically located on the top of a heater.

3. Locate the drain valve at the bottom of your water heater. Once you've located the drain valve, place a container under the spigot to capture the water.

4. Release water from the water heater's tank. To do this, first open hot water spigots in the main living area or upstairs in your home. Next turn the spigot or screw of your water heater's drain valve to the left. Take care when doing this as the water may be very hot - you may want to wear gloves and safety glasses. Turn the spigot or screw to the right to stop the flow of water. Repeat this process as often as you need to until you have drained the tank of water.

Treat or filter water before consuming it:

Be aware that there is the potential for bacterial growth within the water heaters of most homes, and the water supply could be compromised due to the emergency or disaster. As a result, we recommend treating or filtering any water that you use for drinking, food preparation, or hygiene.

There are several ways to do this:

1. Bring the water to a rolling boil for at least one minute. Let cool, and use.

2. Put water in a sanitized container and treat it with unscented chlorine bleach. To sanitize the container, vigorously shake a bleach solution (4 cups water and 1 teaspoon of bleach) for 30 seconds, making sure to cover all surfaces. Pour out solution and let air dry. Fill your container with water and treat it by adding 1/8 teaspoon of bleach per gallon.

3. Use a personal filter to remove any bacteria or parasites. Be sure to carefully read and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

(Continued on page 4)



Get Ready for the Winter Months

Fall is here. You have a few things to do now to get your indoor and outdoor water systems ready for the winter to prevent costly repairs and wasted water.

Before shutting the irrigation system down for the winter, run each zone of the system separately checking for leaks, broken/misaligned spray heads, and other maintenance issues. When it is time to shut the system down for the winter completely drain all of the water out of the system to prevent freezing.

Shut off all outside water, disconnect hoses, open the hose bibs, and wrap or cover the hose bibs to prevent freezing. Store hoses, spray nozzles, and sprinklers inside, this will prevent freezing and breaking during the winter.

Insulate all exposed and vulnerable water pipes and cover the foundation vents to keep out the cold winter air.

Make sure everyone in the home knows where the main water shut off valve is and how to use it. If a pipe breaks during the winter the water will be shut off much quicker and could prevent costly damage. And last but not least, make sure the emergency phone numbers to your local water provider and a plumbing specialist are posted where everyone can see it. In an emergency this will save time and possibly prevent damage to your home.

Fall Water Conservation Tips

- Water needs of plants drop dramatically in the fall. It is time to winterize and shut off the irrigation system.
- Mulch garden beds to feed the soil and prevent weeds from growing.
- Aerate your lawn and add a top dressing of compost mix to feed the soil promoting root growth during the winter.
- Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs. The soil is warm, and there is plenty of natural moisture.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles its water.
- Thaw frozen food in your refrigerator, not your sink.
- Run the dishwasher only when it is full.

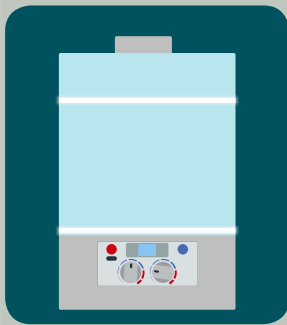
For more fall and winter water conservation tips visit the conservation page on our website at www.clackamasproviders.org/water-conservation.

Water Heater

(Continued from page 3)

Water heater maintenance tips:

Water heater maintenance will also play an important role in the availability and quality of water contained in your water heater.



1. Properly brace your heater to the wall so that it is more likely to remain connected to the wall and your water system.

2. Flush your water heater annually. Water heaters can build up a layer of sediment over time, so regularly flushing your water heater will significantly decrease the amount of sediment you will have to deal with when accessing the water in your tank after an emergency.

For more information about how to properly treat and store an emergency water supply, and other personal preparedness information, visit <http://www.clackamasproviders.org/emergency-preparedness>.

This information is brought to you by the [Regional Water Providers Consortium](http://www.clackamasproviders.org). The Consortium serves as a collaborative and coordinating organization to improve the planning and management of municipal water supplies in the greater Portland, Oregon metropolitan region.

Formed in 1997, the Consortium serves the Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties and is made up of 20 water providers and the regional government Metro. Together, these entities provide about 90 percent of the Portland metropolitan area's drinking water.

Faces of Drinking Water

Ensuring the treatment and delivery of safe clean drinking water takes many different professionals with a variety of background and skills. We recently interviewed Alan Schacht, of the North Clackamas County Water Commission (Oak Lodge Water Services, City of Gladstone, and Sunrise Water Authority).

During Alan's career he has held important positions such as the Pacific Northwest Section American Water Works Association (PNWS AWWA) Northwest Oregon Subsection Chairman from 2006-07, the PNWS AWWA Northwest Oregon Subsection Waterworks School Chairman in 2004-05, and in 2008 Alan was awarded the PNWS AWWA Subsection Advisory Council Activities award.

CRWP: Alan, how long have you been working at the North Clackamas County Water Commission treatment plant?

Alan: I started working here at the Commission 18 years ago, March of 1999.

CRWP: What is your position here at the treatment plant, and how did you acquire it?

Alan: My title is Water Quality Technician. I am one of 3 operators here at the plant. Along with our day to day duties of running the plant I do all of the drinking water quality sampling for Oak Lodge Water Services and I give educational tours of our treatment plant to students and their teachers, and the general public.

CRWP: You were pretty young when you started working in the drinking water industry. What was your background prior to working in drinking water?

Alan: My first job in the drinking water industry was with Oak Lodge Water District, now Oak Lodge Water Services. I started working there in December of 1990, when I was 19 years

old. At the time I was attending my second year of waste water school at Clackamas Community College. When I accepted my job with Oak Lodge it was understood I would go to work at the Commission treatment plant after it was built. I was involved with the treatment plant while it was being built and in March of 1999 I came to the new treatment plant and began my new position as a Water Quality Technician.

CRWP: Do you have a favorite or least favorite part of your job?

Alan: I really enjoy giving tours of the treatment plant, especially to our younger customers, students and their teachers. It's very rewarding to show them how their drinking water is made and help them understand the process.

The thing I like least about my job is being called at 2am and having to go to the treatment plant to fix a problem.

CRWP: What accomplishment/s are you most proud of in your career?

Alan: When I give tours of the treatment plant to school age students it feels so good to see in their eyes they are starting to understand what a process it is to make safe clean drinking water and they are truly interested in what we do here. I also have a few jokes I try out on them and when they laugh that makes me feel very accomplished!

Seriously though, here at the treatment plant we often host interns from Clackamas Community College Water and Environmental Technology program. I get a lot of satisfaction from being able to answer all of their questions, providing them with hands on learning experience and helping them become better treatment plant operators.

CRWP: What advice would you give to someone starting out in this field?

Alan: Get involved with the Northwest Oregon Subsection of the PNWS AWWA.

An Interview with
Alan Schacht, Water Quality Tech, NCCWC



Attend the subsection meetings, and get involved with one of the PNWS AWWA section committees. Make as many industry contacts as you can. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself, make yourself stand out! It's a great way to learn about open job positions and it creates a community of people who can help you when you have a difficult work problem. Chances are someone else has had the same problem and has already figured out a good way to solve it.

CRWP: How has the industry changed since you started?

Alan: When this treatment plant was first put online our filtration system was slow sand. Now we have slow sand and membrane filtration. We have the oldest and newest technology to treat water. The slow sand has a pretty big foot print and the membrane, in comparison takes up very space. Water quality testing has also changed a lot. We now have the technology to test containments in our water down to parts per trillion! Today people are so much more aware of their drinking water. Especially since the whole Flint water quality issue and more locally the Portland Public School system and their lead issues. Safe drinking water is something people had taken for granted for so long, and now people want to make sure their water is safe.

CRWP: What do you feel is most important about your job?

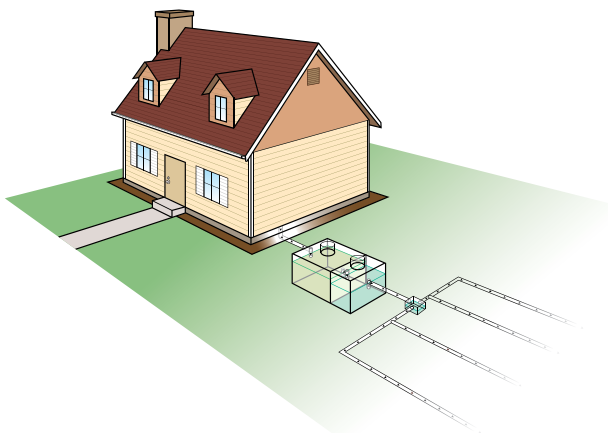
Alan: Making and delivering clean safe drinking water to our customers.

(Continued on page 8)

Three Terrific Programs to Help Landowners with Septic System Concerns

This story begins four years ago over concerns about contamination of the Clackamas River from failed or failing septic systems. To address these concerns, the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) applied for, and received, a Drinking Water Protection Grant for a septic system project on the Clackamas River.

To achieve the goals of the grant, the CRWP teamed up with Clackamas County Septic and Onsite



Wastewater Systems program, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Together, these organizations developed a comprehensive Septic System Partnership program. The focus of this group is to work with landowners to help protect our environment, water quality, and the health of people who live downstream of septic problems.

Working together, the partnership has offered workshops and created new or modified existing outreach materials specifically for Clackamas County septic system owners. The outreach materials include a Septic Smart Home Owners Guide for Clackamas County and brochures such

as Septic System Maintenance and 5 Things You Should Ask Before Buying a Home With a Septic System. Copies of these outreach materials may be downloaded at <http://clackamasproviders.org/water-resources/septic-system-assistance-program>.

The most exciting part of the Septic System Partnership is the development of financial assistance programs for septic system owners. These programs are currently available only to septic system owners in the Clackamas River watershed. Clackamas River Water Providers offers two financial assistance programs available to septic system owners:

- **\$200 Existing System Evaluation/Inspection Rebate** - Inspecting your septic system is a good way to make sure your system is working correctly and to identify any problems before they get too big.
- **Septic System Repair Cost Share** - CRWP will reimburse 50% of the cost of necessary septic system repairs, up to \$1,000. This is not intended for routine maintenance or pumping.

The newest financial assistance program, effective August 2017, is a loan offered by Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. This Residential Septic System Repair Loan is available to homeowners in the Clackamas River watershed for the repair or replacement of failed and failing septic systems. For more information regarding this loan program, go to <https://conservationdistrict.org/programs/septic-system-repair-loans>.

For more information about the CRWP Septic System Financial Assistance Programs and eligibility requirements, go to <http://www.clackamasproviders.org/septic-system-assistance-program>.

Fall Quiz:

Answers

Question 1 - Answer is D
Question 2 - Answer is C

Question 3 - Answer is B
Question 4 - Answer is C

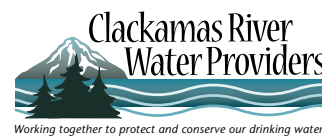
15th Annual Down the River Clean-Up

Each year the Clackamas River Water Providers provides funding to support the Annual Down the River Clean-up that takes place each September on the Clackamas River. Due to the beauty, and close proximity to urban areas, the Clackamas River has become known for attracting recreationalists of all kinds, including kayakers, rafters, tubers, anglers, and more. The high-use of the river and its nearness to cities, unfortunately, brings along with it pollutants and unwarranted litter.

This annual river clean up event is one of the largest and longest running on-water cleanup event of its kind in Oregon, where 300+ river-lovers jump in their rafts, kayaks, drift boats - and maybe even down a snorkel mask - uniting to scour the banks and bottom of 20+ miles of river way from Milo McIver Park to Clackamette Park where the Clackamas empties into the Willamette.



Since 2003 a total of 3,635 community members and volunteers have joined together to remove over 66,040 pounds of trash from the Clackamas River. It is our hope that through these kinds of efforts that amount of garbage needed to be taken out of the river will slowly decrease over time. Until then this is a great opportunity for us to help keep our river clean and educate the public about this amazing river and drinking water source they are playing on.



Faces of Drinking Water (Continued from page 5)

CRWP: What would you like the public to know about their drinking water?

Alan: I think it's important the public knows we do everything we can to make their water safe for them to drink.

CRWP: What is the most significant project you have been involved in your career?

Alan: The expansion of our treatment plant to add the membrane filtration and all of the infrastructure to support it. We broke ground in October of 2004 and we were serving water to our customers by August of 2005. It was a real big undertaking and during the construction we continued to serve quality drinking water to our customers.

CRWP: What's the one thing you can't live without at work?

Alan: Well, we certainly can't do our jobs without electricity and my phone is a pretty important tool. Of course my co workers make my job much easier and enjoyable.

CRWP: What would you say water is to you?

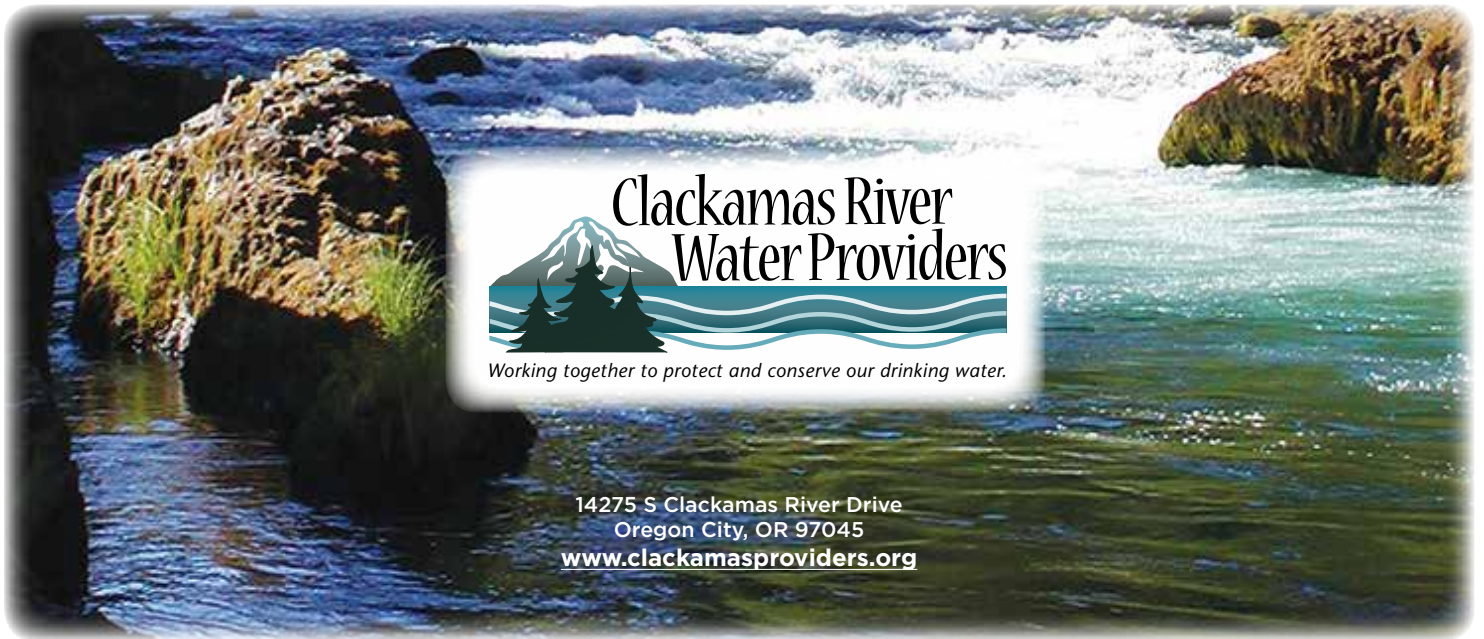
Alan: Water isn't just a job, it is my career.

CRWP: What do you do for fun when you're not working?

Alan: I really enjoy spending time with my family. I'm involved in our church and I volunteer there whenever I can. When my Daughter was in high school I began volunteering at the Rex Putnam theater department. I enjoyed it so much I still volunteer there as much as possible. I also enjoy camping and visiting the coast.

The CRWP would like to thank Alan for agreeing to our interview. I've known and worked with Alan since I started at Oak Lodge in 2003. It has been a genuine pleasure knowing and working with him.

by Christine Hollenbeck, CRWP



Our Members:



www.crwater.com



www.cityofestacada.org



www.ci.gladstone.or.us



www.ci.oswego.or.us



www.oaklodgewater.org



www.sfwb.org



www.sunrisewater.com



www.tigard-or.gov

Christine Hollenbeck Public Education and Conservation Program Coordinator (503) 723-3511 christine@clackamasproviders.org
Kim Swan Water Resource Manager (503) 723-3510 kims@clackamasproviders.org