

## **Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS)**

### **News Advisory**

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Wendy and Flumpa

### **Fourth Annual Water Festival Focuses on Keeping Water Clean**

What does a six foot six blue-eyed tree frog have to do with trash floating down Dog River? He's Flumpa, the famous tree frog, and he'll be a featured part of the environmental education geared towards fourth graders at the annual Mobile County Water Festival, March 29, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Mobile County Fairgrounds. A water festival is a hands-on learning event that teaches students where their water comes from, how it gets polluted and what it takes to get it clean.

Recent scenes of the litter floating down Dog River are a timely reason festival organizer April Griffin with the Mobile County Water and Soil Conservation District feels lessons learned at this year's festival are so important.

“These graphic images bring home the message that everything we do affects the quality of our waters. Whether it is dropped litter, pet waste or leaking oil from a car, it can wind up in the water we swim in, or the water we drink. The activities at the festival will show students how it happens and how they can make a difference,” said Griffin.

More than 400 students will rotate through three different group activities that will explain where our water comes from, how it gets polluted and what they can do to make sure our water stays safe. Students will build a watershed model and learn how daily activities impact water cleanliness, examine different types of water pollution and what it takes to get the water clean and design a water cycle bracelet to show the different forms water takes as it recycles itself.

Following the activities, the students will enjoy the unique, musical science stage presentation, “Flumpa and Friends LIVE!” The interactive show, performed by Wendy Whitten, the singing scientist and Flumpa, a six foot six blue eyed tree frog, combines original songs, energetic physical movement and colorful sets with science “fun facts” that incorporate biological, earth and physical sciences.

“We hope the students have fun, but we hope they go home with an understanding that we all can make a difference in protecting our water, whether that water is used for drinking, fishing or playing,” said Griffin.

Schools participating in this year’s Water Festival include Mertz, Castlen, Indian Springs, Old Shell Magnet, Tanner Williams, Hollingers Island, Collins-Rhodes, Collier, Faith Academy and Little Flower Catholic School. High school students assisting with activities are from Baker and Mary G. Montgomery High Schools.

Students attend the Water Festival free thanks to funding and in-kind services provided by the Mobile County Water and Soil Conservation District, Gulf Coast Resource Conservation and Development, Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS), Thompson Engineering, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Coastal Alabama Clean Water Partnership, Alabama Forestry Commission, Master Gardeners, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama Coastal Foundation, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA-Farm Service Agency, Alabama Power, and the Mobile County School System.

*(Note to editors: Hands on activities will take place from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The “Flumpa and Friends LIVE” show begins at 11:10 a.m. )*