



In my area, June has been a very pleasant month for outdoor activities. There have been many days where the mornings have had a nip to them and where the mid-

day seemed almost depleted of any humidity. These will soon be overcome by the sweltering days of August. But until then I will savor each moment.

2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
Harland Creek Community Water Association
PWS# 260009, 260022, 260039 & 260043
May 2019

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox & Winona - Tallahatta Aquifer. The Horseshoe System purchases water from the Town of Toluca.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Harland Creek Community Water Association have received moderate rankings in terms of susceptibility to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact James M. Drennon, III at 662.582.4806. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please join us at any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Old Coxburg Community Center.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2018. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2018, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity, microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/l) - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

PWS ID # 0260009 TEST RESULTS									
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AQL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants									
10. Barium	N	2018	.0074	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
13. Chromium	N	2018	2.2	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	
14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection By-Products									
81. HAAS	N	2017*	16	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.	
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2017*	22.2	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	
Chlorine	N	2018	1	0 - 1.3	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes	

PWS ID # 0260022 TEST RESULTS									
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AQL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants									
10. Barium	N	2018	.0064	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
13. Chromium	N	2018	1.6	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	
14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.2	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
16. Fluoride	N	2018	.179	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	2	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection By-Products									
81. HAAS	N	2018	20	15 - 20	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.	
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2018	22.5	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	
Chlorine	N	2018	1.1	4 - 1.6	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes	

PWS ID # 0260039 TEST RESULTS									
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AQL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants									
10. Barium	N	2018	.0087	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
13. Chromium	N	2018	1.3	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	
14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.3	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
16. Fluoride	N	2018	.186	No Range	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	2	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection By-Products									
81. HAAS	N	2017*	41	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.	
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2017*	31	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	
Chlorine	N	2018	.9	5 - 1.2	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes	

PWS ID # 0260043 TEST RESULTS									
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/AQL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Inorganic Contaminants									
10. Barium	N	2018	.0051	.0031 - .0051	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits	
13. Chromium	N	2018	1.6	1.5 - 1.6	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	
14. Copper	N	2016/18	1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
16. Fluoride	N	2018	.118	.106 - .118	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	
17. Lead	N	2016/18	5	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection By-Products									
81. HAAS	N	2017*	12	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.	
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2017*	23.9	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	
Chlorine	N	2018	1.6	.05 - 1.5	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes	

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2018.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected, however, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Harland Creek Community Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Fishing has become the pastime of most outdoorsmen. Many of these trips have a camping aspect attached which makes them even more memorable. I've already enjoyed a night on the riverbank, sitting beside a campfire. I enjoyed a baked potato cooked by the embers from the fire, along with fried redeye that was caught that evening. I often challenge myself by not taking anything of substance to eat on these trips. If I catch something, I eat. If I don't, I don't. This makes me fish for quantity and not quality. I use the bait I think is most likely to catch a fish - any fish. And what otherwise would be catch and release, is now catch and cook, even the ones that are usually considered too small. It's a fun way of really seeing if I could live off my little land. The key, however, is not having a backup plan. And to be honest, even something as little as one night without a good meal doesn't sit well with me. That's really a shame. I have never known of anyone who died from missing one meal. We Americans could stand to miss a few more. But I digress.

Do you have backup plans? Most of us do. Sometimes we never know

what they are until we are put in a predicament whereby plan A fails. It's at that time our mind begins to work frantically to find another way; to make it work; to adapt, overcome, improvise. And all of this sounds honorable, but did you know that real faith - the greatest faith - has no backup plans. There are no contingent strategies if plan A fails. Did you know that God calls us to trust Him in this way at times? It's true. Even in the first and most basic aspect of our hope, God asks us to trust Him to get us to Heaven. We do, and then leave it there, without any thought of what we might do if we are wrong. If God would ask us to trust Him in this, without any backup plans, why would He not ask us to trust Him this way in other matters as well? He would and He does. My friend, don't think it strange if God asks you to do something and leaves no room for contingencies. He is simply testing the depth of your faith.

Real faith jumps far enough out, leaving no possibility of reaching back to anything that might be attached to the security that we just left. Sometimes it's God or nothing.

gary@outdoortruths.org

2018 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
West Hill Water Association
PWS# 0260018
June 2019

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Jacob Williamson at 662.590.3736. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at 103 China St. Lexington, MS 39095

Our water source is purchased from the HIUD that has wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Holmes Interstate Utility District have received moderate susceptibility rankings to contamination.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2018. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2018, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity, microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

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TEST RESULTS									
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Inorganic Contaminants									
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14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	0	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	2018	.1	No Range	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks; sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Disinfection By-Products									
81. HAAS	N	2017*	1	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.	
82. TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	2017*	3.65	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	
Chlorine	N	2018	1.6	6 - 1.8	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes	

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Fences, the answer to everything

There is a one-word answer to some of the most plaintive requests I get for help with garden pests: Fence.

As a frustrated hands-on gardener myself, I perfectly understand how everyone wants relief through an easy fix. And the push-back about physical barriers, whether out of concerns over the expense or aesthetics.

But in most cases, there is no last-minute cavalry charge, no miraculous deus ex machina; a physical barrier is the bottom line. It applies equally to me and other experienced horticulturists even at botanic gardens who have tried everything possible with limited or short short-term success.

As for alluring pie-in-the-sky repellents, despite the earnest testimonials from many sincere individuals, they rarely work well for most folks, or for long.

Scarecrows, yappy feist dogs, flashy tinfoil, perfumed soap, fragrant herbal plants, mothballs, gobs of human hair, bands of lime, clear bags of water, blue paint, sharp punji sticks, concentrated predator urine, high-pitched sound machines, motion-activated sprinklers, intermittent shotgun sounds, chewing gum, fake owls and snakes, pellet guns, prayers, and yep, even voodoo dolls...tried them all, with little dependable success.

Got deer? Fence. Rabbits, armadillos, 'possums, strawberry-eating tortoises? Fence. Birds? Caterpillar-making butterflies? Fence. Dogs or errant soccer balls? Fence.

There are many types of fences, from tall landscape fencing made of wood, heavy or lighter-gauge wire, to smaller screened enclosures and custom-made individual cages. Some gardeners cover entire plants with inexpensive, lightweight but strong polyethylene netting, using clothespins to fasten them underneath to foil smart birds, rats, and opossums.

Then there are electrified wires, which if positioned right can deter most mammals. Two wires are better than one, with the lowest set at racoon and 'possum height.

At considerable expense and effort, my old friend Roger Swain, world-renowned longtime host of PBS Victory Garden who has tried everything else, finally put an 8-foot heavy gauge wire fence with dou-

ble-action doors around his entire New Hampshire property, plus tall walk-in cages for his berry plants. And he faithfully shrouds raised beds with bird and insect netting on other crops. He even covers his bathtub water garden with a wire netting to keep birds and raccoons from eating his fish.

Simply put, the Harvard graduate wouldn't do any of it he could rely on easier solutions.

All said, you won't find a single decent productive garden in England that doesn't incorporate some of this. It's simply what they do, because they need protection from garden varmints - and netting works.

I spend a big part of last summer hand-picking tiny green caterpillars from my edible-pot and English peas. This year I covered my vines with a tent made from hoops of rebar rods and half-inch PVC pipe (spray painted brown) draped with netting with mesh small enough to exclude butterflies but large enough to allow more adept pollinating bees through.

In naive societies where fencing is not considered aesthetically acceptable, a savvy gardener has to be creative. Tone down bare wire fences with spray paint or get colored fencing. Durable, UV-resistant poly netting is nearly invisible from just a few yards away. Wood fences can be cute pickets or neatly painted, and can even have windows cut in them, or decorated with wall hangings and vines.

Bottom line, with most garden pests: Fence 'em out. We'll still have to deal with slugs, but that's another story that involves getting rid of their daytime hiding places and every now and then putting a band of slug bait around my raised bed.

Oh, and two other exceptions: squirrels and neighbors' cats constantly test everything. So far, nothing has been effective against either.

Felder Rushing is an 11th-generation American gardener who has traveled to all fifty states (lectured in 36) and across five continents looking for interesting gardening angles to share via his extensive lecturing, writing and broadcasting. The graduate horticulturist and free-thinking university professor has written syndicated newspaper columns for 38 years and hosted a live radio program for nearly that long, including 15 years now as the weekly host of The Gestalt Gardener, one of National Public Radio's most popular gardening programs. Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com

