

Comments

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Three Plants Earn NACWA Awards



Chairman Shultz presents Platinum 7 Award to Terri Strachan, 40-Acre Facility Manager

Gulf Coast Authority treatment facilities scored three of the Peak Performance Awards presented annually by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. Only 463 awards were made nationwide. GCA Chairman Mark Schultz presented the awards to plant representatives at the Board's September meeting.

The awards recognize top environmental results achieved during the calendar year 2009. A Platinum 7 Award went to the 40-Acre Industrial Wastewater Facility in Texas City. The "7" indicates seven consecutive years of perfect compliance with the plant's operating permit. Both the Odessa South Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Bayport Industrial Treatment Facility achieved the Silver Award. Silver indicates fewer than five excursions beyond the limits of the operating permits.

Odessa South is located in Odessa, Texas, and Bayport is located in the Bayport Industrial District in Pasadena, Texas.

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Junior Gardeners Visit

It seems like a contradiction in terms: Junior Master Gardener. "Master" seems to call for long years and lots of experience to go with those years. Well, these young gardeners may lack the years, but they are long on experience. They visited GCA's Blackhawk Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility which treats sewage for their city.

The Junior Master Gardeners are sponsored by the Friendswood, Texas, based Heritage Gardeners, Inc. Founded in 1966, the Heritage Gardeners also sponsor Christmas and Spring Home and Garden Tours. The garden club for children ages six through 12 is taught by Master Gardeners following a curriculum developed by Texas A&M University.

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Dedicated youngsters tour Blackhawk Wastewater Treatment Facility

NACWA Awards

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“I’d like to make a special point that each of these industrial facilities operates under a permit with literally hundreds of parameters which must be met every single day,” said Chairman Schultz. “It takes a great deal of dedication and expertise to achieve these awards.”

NACWA has stated that, “The Peak Performance Awards program . . . recognizes public wastewater treatment facilities for their outstanding compliance records in the 2009 calendar year.” Announcement of the awards was done at the organization’s 2010 Summer Conference and 40th Annual Meeting held in July.

“NACWA is honored to showcase the achievements of Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority . . . through the Peak Performance Awards Program,” said Ken Kirk, NACWA’s Executive Director.



Schultz and Ricky Clifton, Asst. General Manager
representing Odessa South Facility



Schultz and Jack Wahlstrom, Bayport Facility Manager

Junior Gardeners

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The young gardeners meet once a month after school and learn about gardening, the environment, insects, and water conservation, among other activities. Upon graduation from the program they are certified as Texas Junior Master Gardeners.

The program seeks to teach leadership and life skills in addition to encouraging community service volunteerism.



Junior Gardeners gather for the first part of their tour of the Blackhawk Facility.

More GCA Facility Tours



Council Members from the city of Friendswood tour the Blackhawk Facility.
From left to right are Kaz Hamidian, Public Works Dept.; Patrick J. McGinnis MD and Deirdre Carey Brown, Council Members; Roger Roecker, City Manager and Jerald Landis, Superintendent of Municipal Services for Blackhawk. Friendswood is a major contributor of wastewater treatment at this facility.



Teachers from Clear Creek ISD get first-hand knowledge of wastewater treatment at Blackhawk



Students from Clear Lake High School review plant operations at the 40-Acre Facility

Comments

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