

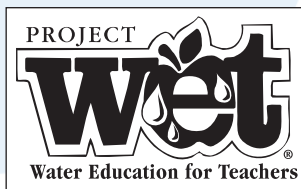
Community Currents

More Help Wanted

Want to get involved? United Water is looking for a few more customers to become members of our Customer Advisory Panel.

Protect Your Pipes!

Check out these tips on how you can keep your pipes safe from Old Man Winter.



Teaching The Teachers

Read how United Water teamed up with the DEP to help teachers instruct students on the properties of water.



We Have A Winner!

Check out the award winning photo from our xeriscape plant photo contest.



Water Security

Read what the manager of United Water Toms River has to say about keeping the water supply safe.

Winter 2001-2002

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the articles in this issue, please feel free to call us at 1 877 565 1456.

For more news and information on United Water, you can visit our web site at www.unitedwater.com/uwtr.



George Flegal
Manager
United Water Toms River

George Flegal holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and an MBA from West Chester University.

Securing The Supply

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on September 11th, many of our customers have been concerned about the security of our water supplies. First off, I would like to reiterate what groups such as the American Water Works Association, the Environmental Protection Agency and the FBI have all stated before, that it's highly improbable for the nation's drinking water to be compromised by terrorists. There are already many safeguards in place against contaminants in the water supply.

Nevertheless, I want you to know that we have taken the threat seriously and have implemented heightened security measures. While I cannot discuss specific details of our plans I can tell you that we've focused our efforts on facility security and law enforcement coordination.

Facility Security

These steps have included but are not limited to:

- Additional inspections of site security infrastructure including locks, gates and surveillance equipment
- Increased patrolling of United Water facilities
- Asking the public to contact local law enforcement personnel should they see suspicious individuals near water supply facilities

While these measures are effective, the fact that all our water supplies come from wells provides an additional layer of protection. Our supplies are less accessible to public and are protected by tons of earth to filter out contaminants.

Law Enforcement Coordination

Law enforcement doctrine regarding terrorism always takes into consideration the threat level against specific facilities. Most authorities would agree that our system here in Toms River does not fall into a high threat category for potential attack. But in any event, United Water has been in close contact with local, state and federal authorities to coordinate security measures and has acquired law enforcement assistance in the protection of the water supply.



Winterize Your Pipes

Now is the time to prepare your home for Old Man Winter's chilly visit as the cold can be harsh on household plumbing. This is especially important as the water flowing into your household is traveling through *your* pipes. As a homeowner you are responsible for:

- protecting the meter and pipes inside the curb from damage by frost, hot water or other causes
- household plumbing
- housing for meters placed outside your home or building
- keeping the meter shut-off valves, regulators and control devices in proper working order

Here are some tips to help protect your pipes and water meter from freezing. Taking these steps now can spare you from being left without water or having to incur expenses for repairs or damaged furnishings.

Start Outdoors

Disconnect and drain the garden hose connection. Next, close all outside vents so cold air doesn't seep inside. Don't forget to close off crawl spaces and doors. Repair any broken windows and seal any cracks in the walls. If you have an outdoor meter pit, check that the lid is in good repair and that it covers the pit.

Insulate, Insulate, Insulate

It's a good idea to wrap water lines in commercial insulation. Wrap the meter with insulation to keep the surrounding space warm. Pipes exposed to cold or freezing should be wrapped in heat tape. Heat tape is available at hardware stores.

Locate Shut-Off Valves

Make sure the valves on either side of the water meter are working properly. You want to be sure that they can be turned off if a frozen pipe bursts. Place a tag on the main shut-off valve and make sure everyone in the house knows its location and how to operate it in an emergency.

Check The Heat

If you use a wood burning stove, kerosene heater or fireplace, make sure they don't prevent the thermostat from turning on the heating system.

Teaching The Teachers

United Water Hosts Project WET Workshop

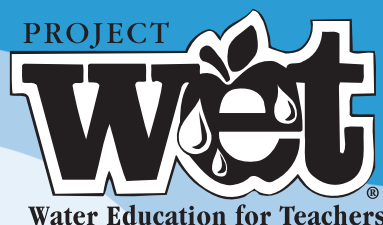
Imagine taking a journey as a water molecule, making water defy gravity or joining the H₂Olympics. Each of these activities and a host of others were achieved by Toms River teachers during a workshop that showed them how to bring water education to their classroom.

United Water teamed up with the Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Wetlands Institute to sponsor the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop. Project WET is a collection of innovative, water-related activities for grades K-12 that are hands-on, easy to use and fun.

The workshop was offered to teachers in the district as part of United Water Toms River's ongoing efforts to provide education and community oriented programs. At least 12 teachers of special education students attended the five-hour workshop held during two consecutive Tuesdays at West Dover Elementary School.

Patricia Lewis, district supervisor of elementary curriculum and Jane Strada, supervisor of instruction, worked with United Water in bringing the program to the district. Strada said the teachers enjoyed the active way of learning about the water cycle, the properties of water and conservation. For instance, in *The Incredible Journey*, the teachers took on the role of a water molecule that traveled through the water cycle, condensing, falling from a cloud and into a reservoir and traveling through pipes. Once the molecule completed its journey, the teachers wrote a poem about their experience.

Colleen Gould, Project WET state coordinator, said teachers enjoy the lessons as much as the students and look forward to incorporating them in their curriculum.



Gould said what is unique about the program is how the lessons can be related to various disciplines—science, math, language arts, history or social studies.

Teacher Linda Tara Pallen said she enjoyed the hands-on approach and found the activities innovative and exciting. Linda Iauen thought the curriculum guide contained great ideas about the importance and significance of water. She said the hands-on experiments coupled with stimulating lessons will allow her to challenge her students.

George Flegal, United Water Toms River general manager said, "We are pleased to have sponsored such a valuable program for teachers in the district. The children will ultimately benefit and will share their knowledge with their parents, fostering positive changes and attitudes toward our most precious resource."

Each teacher who attended the workshop received a Project WET curriculum activity guide that is correlated to the state curriculum standards. They also received facts, information, and materials about New Jersey's water resources. Project Wet and the Wetlands Institute are registered professional development providers with the New Jersey Department of Education. Teachers who attended the workshop received five credit hours toward their state mandated professional development requirements.

Over The Rim

Try This Project WET Lesson At Home

How many pennies do you think you'll be able to add to a full cup of water before it spills over? The answer might surprise you.

Directions

Fill a clear plastic cup with water until it is even with the rim. Add pennies, one at a time. Keep track of the number of pennies added. Continue until the water spills over the side. Make a game of it by keeping count for two different players.



Why Does It Work?

The nature of the water molecule causes it to be attracted to other water molecules as well as to molecules of other substances. Without these qualities, plants could not get water and blood would have difficulty traveling

through the body. The attraction between water molecules is called cohesion. The attraction of the water molecule to other materials, like glass or soil, is called adhesion.

Evidence of water's attraction to itself can be seen by looking at its surface. If a glass is filled to the brim and more water is added gently, the level of water will exceed the top of the glass. The cohesive force between water molecules causes the water surface to behave as though it is covered by a thinly stretched membrane. This phenomenon is called surface tension.

For more information about the properties of water check out the following resources: Dean Hurd, [Prentice Hall Physical Science](#), © 1988, and Philip Watson, [Liquid Magic](#), © 1982.

This sample activity was provided compliments of Project WET. Complete project books are only available to those educators who complete the program. For more information on Project WET, contact the New Jersey State Coordinator, Colleen Gould, at 732 292 4672.

And The Winner Is... Xeriscape Garden Photo Contest



Tickseed Coreopsis— *A fast growing perennial, our winner blooms the second year after it is planted. It grows to 2 feet tall in dry or average soil and its seeds are a favorite food for goldfinches. Tickseed is an attractive ground cover for harsh sunny conditions. It is a showy, fast growing and long-blooming perennial that will continue to bloom through the summer with occasional dead heading.*

In our last edition of *Community Currents* we held our very own Xeriscape Gardening Photo Contest. Xeriscaping is “water wise” gardening that uses less water than a traditional garden. By selecting plants that are drought tolerant and using horticultural techniques, homeowners can easily reduce their outdoor water use while creating a colorful, natural garden that is also low in maintenance.

After submitting the entries to our Customer Advisory Panel for review, we have a winner! For her beautiful picture of a coreopsis (tickseed), Ms. Donna Bender of Toms River will be receiving a cash prize of \$50.00. Congratulations!

WANTED: Customer Advisory Panel Members

The United Water Toms River Customer Advisory Panel is looking for your help. We are looking for individuals who are interested in being on a panel of concerned citizens working to improve communications between the water company and the community.

Every other month, each CAP member attends a two-hour meeting to discuss the latest water-related issues concerning the community and United Water. For their time and input, each member receives \$40 per meeting.

If you are interested in joining the CAP, please send a letter of intent giving us your contact information and telling us a little about yourself. We're interested in why you would like to join the group. E-mail your replies to kevin.doell@unitedwater.com or mail your letters by January 7th, 2002 to:

United Water Toms River
CAP Recruiting
15 Adafre Ave., P. O. Box 668
Toms River, NJ 08754-0668

If you have additional questions about the group, you can call Kevin Doell in the United Water Communications Department at 1 800 664 4552, extension 2868.

Water Word Search

Our Customer Advisory Panel thought it would be good to have a little fun in this issue. See if you can find the words below hidden in the puzzle to the right. Many of the words should be very familiar to you as they all relate to our drinking water. Have fun and happy hunting!

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Aquifer | Rain |
| Clean | Recharge |
| Cool | Refreshing |
| Essential | Reliable |
| ET | Tested |
| Groundwater | Water |
| Leak | Watershed |
| Piped | Well |
| Pure | Wet |
| Quenching | Xeriscape |

I R E L I A B L E R L Z K
D E H S R E T A W U A O O
N C A A B E R G Z P I Q T
R S L N K I E R X I T U R
E E K E R U F O E P N E E
C N T A A R I U R E E N F
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A P T I W N Q D S Z S H E
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E E T U H L C T P F O G I
F A E R A T L E E G S L N
I K D E H C H R J V P E G