

The Resource

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A Publication of the City of North Augusta
Stormwater Management Department

More People and Longer Droughts – *Using Water Wisely*



December 2005

Over the past decade, the southeast has experienced record heat, record drought and a large population increase. This combination of events has created potential water-resource and supply issues that must be addressed. According to the US Census Bureau, the population in South Carolina and Georgia increased by 2.2 million



October 2007

people during that time. With continuing drought and population growth predicted, water conservation plays a key role in managing our resources. Each one of us should pay attention to our water usage and conserve water where we can. No longer should water conservation be something we put off until later. It should be a priority in every household.

During 2007 and 2008, the availability of water became a significant concern alerting everyone that we must think about our water use. During that time and since, the water levels in many of our streams were at record lows. It is now common to see smaller streams completely dry. The lowered levels in upstream lakes and the Savannah River created serious issues at local water treatment facilities, power plants and for farmers growing our food. At utility companies, the existing intake pumps that draw water from the river were becoming closer to malfunction due to dropping water levels. And it was reported that farmers lost \$1.3 billion due to crop losses. At the same time that government and industrial officials across the two states were working to develop emergency plans for water and power facilities, they and local citizens began working on long-term water management plans. The long drought period sounded the alarm to everyone that with increased growth in our region, we need to manage our resources wisely.

Good things are resulting from the ongoing water planning process, including focusing our attention on water conservation. This year, Georgia passed the Water Stewardship Act of 2010. This new regulation will require new steps to conserve including; permanent outdoor watering schedules, newly constructed homes must include high water-efficient plumbing and cooling fixtures, and public water plants must conduct water loss audits and implement ways to detect and fix leaks in their systems. In South Carolina, we should also consider ways to conserve water. Our local businesses and industries can lead the way by implementing measures such as analyzing water needs and ways to detect and minimize water waste. We can individually do our part by looking at these same issues at our workplaces and in our homes.

Drought predictions for the southeast continue and so does our need to conserve water. For 100 more tips to conserve water visit: <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com> and to learn more about water efficient products visit EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense>. Every drop counts!

Tips for Conserving Water

- Stop leaks! Repair all leaks in and outside your home.
- Don't waste water by letting it run while doing tasks.
- Buy water-efficient products when you are replacing equipment in your home.
- For sprinkler systems, consider putting in a rain-sensor. This inexpensive device will stop the system from watering if it has rained.
- Adjust sprinkler systems so only lawns are being watered, and not paved surfaces.
- Collect and use rainwater to water lawns or flower beds during dry periods.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when fully loaded.

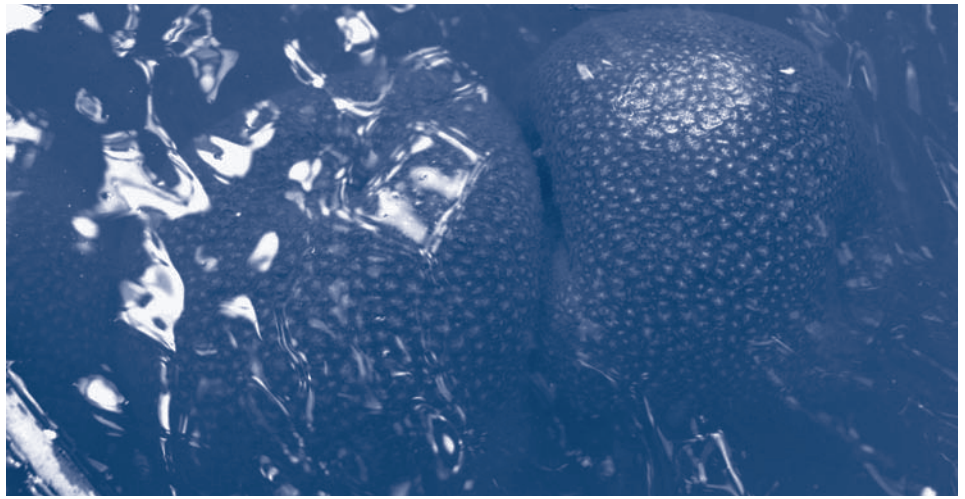
Species Profile:

Magnificent Bryozoan

(*Pectinatella magnifica*)

Over the last couple of months there have been a lot of interesting things observed at Brick Pond Park. One of the most interesting is colonies of Bryozoans near the waterfalls and pumps. A group of North Augusta Elementary students discovered them. Other visitors have been curious as well. Puzzling objects they are. Some suggested the masses looked like something from outer space or giant clumps of aquatic eggs. It was determined that they are freshwater Bryozoans (also called Ectoprocta), some of the oldest living aquatic invertebrate creatures on earth with estimates from fossil records suggesting they date back 480 million years.

Magnificent Bryozoans (*Pectinatella magnifica*) are freshwater colonial animals common in warm ponds, lakes, and streams east of the Mississippi River. They appear as large sized gelatinous, shiny, and slimy looking masses that form on floating sticks, plants, or logs near moving water. Bryozoans' colonies range in size from one foot to up to two feet. The inside of the colony (the gelatin part) is 99% water. The animals (called zooids) live on the outer side of the mass in

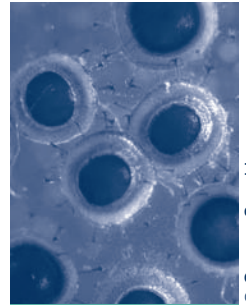


groups of 12-18 each. The zooids have a mouth, a digestive tract, muscles, and nerve centers. Zooids are tiny filter feeders that eat algae and protozoa that pass by. Each zooid of Magnificent Bryozoans has a crown of hollow tentacles on its head that grabs food from the water (a feeding zooid or autozooid).

There are many species of marine bryozoans and several freshwater types including those that look like moss. New colonies of Bryozoans form from microscopic free swimming larval-stage zooids or by dormant spore-like *statoblasts* that can be found in the soil or attached to pond plants. When conditions are not right for colonies to form, these statoblasts can last a long time. Studies have shown that they can be transported by wind to new areas on dried up pond weeds and still hatch to start new colonies when the

conditions are right. They like warm-water and are commonly found in the warmer months. Freshwater bryozoans are preyed upon by fish, snails, and insects.

Bryozoans are said to be one of the most important filters in freshwaters along with sponges and mussels. They are a common inhabitant of freshwater and their presence is good, unless they become so thick that they clog up pipes, which has been reported in an Aiken County treatment plant. Much is still unknown about these invertebrates and studies about their proper classification and locations throughout the world continue.



Statoblasts

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| <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">Upcoming Events:</h1> | Monday, November 29, 2010 | Christmas Tree Lighting Event! 5-8 p.m. Calhoun Park |
| | Wednesday, December 1, 2010 | Designing a Development Project to Meet Requirements and Water Quality Seminar and Product Showcase, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at North Augusta Community Center. Contact: 803 441-4246 to register. |
| | Sunday, December 4, 2010 | Christmas for the Birds! Come make decorative ornaments and bird feeders, listen to stories, and hear from Paul Koehler, SC Audubon at Living History Park, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. A Fun Family Activity! Learn more at: http://www.colonialtimes.us/xmasbirds.html |
| | Sunday, December 5, 2010 | Lions Club Christmas Parade! 1-4 p.m. |



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