



USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference

["Water Talkers" , Integrating Water Education Into 4-H Programming](#)

The dawn of the new millennium found the state of Georgia in its third year of a serious drought. Low flow rates and water table levels were becoming a concern statewide and outdoor watering bans were common across the state. As a result, the UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Science deemed hydrologic education a critical issue that needed to be addressed. In response, the Lamar County 4-H program implemented, "Water Talkers" a series of hydrologic education lessons that were integrated into 5th grade 4-H Club meetings to educate students about the importance of water. They were also integrated to encourage students to become conscientious stewards of water resources. The science-based lessons on hydrology covered topics on: (1) quality, (2) watersheds, (3) hydrologic cycle, (4) pollution, (5) wetlands, (6) filtration and (7) conservation. During the 2005-2006 school year, approximately 200 fifth graders were engaged in fun, hands-on activities that helped them become learned conversationalists on water topics. In addition to classroom instruction, the fifth graders also participated in water-related service projects.

Author: Octavia L. Jackson

University Affiliation: University of Georgia

Co-Author(s): Keith G. Lassiter