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The Southeast Region of the United States enjoys one of the best supplies of clean, fresh drinking water in the world. However, we must not take our water for granted.

LFWS water quality and quantity.

1. Our region recently suffered through a 5-year drought, which had many of us wondering whether our LFWS wells would run dry and we would be without drinking water.

We never ran out of water, even though LFWS pumped an average of 16,000 gallons of water a day. In my opinion, the under ground aquifers from which we extract water are supplied from rainwater and lake water that filters down to it. Both the Chestatee and Cherokee wells are located near the edge of the reservoir and are over 100' deep. This is well below the Lanier streambed. This might explain why we had water and many other 100' wells in the area that relied only on rainwater ran dry during the drought. To ensure a continuous supply of water for the future, LFWS drilled a third well, 750' deep, on top of the hill next to the water storage tank. We brought that well on-line 3 years ago.

2. We're reminded daily to be on the alert for threats from foreign agents who might target water supplies in this country.

For someone to contaminate a water supply would require a massive amount of contaminants and a great deal of time to introduce it into the system. Either action would draw a lot of attention to what they are doing. Everyone needs to remain alert to any unusual activity near our 2 well sites or our water storage tank. Report any suspicious activity to a board member immediately.

3. There have been a few short-term disease outbreaks in other regions due to contaminated drinking water.

These outbreaks have been attributed to surface containments seeping into the well water at or near exposed wellheads. All three LFWS wellheads have poured concrete pads around the wellhead that slope AWAY from the well. In addition, all well sites are housed within buildings and surrounded by 6' fences. Our well sites are inspected regularly by EPD officials and have passed all EPD wellhead safety requirements.

4. Our region is experiencing major population growth and development which in turn has put increased pressure on water resources.

Atlanta's unbridled growth, Gwinett County dumping of processed sewage back into Lanier, and tri-state river sharing are three of the major pressures being placed upon the fresh water supply in this region. However, Lakeshore Forest is in a very unique and enviable position. We do not have to rely on any outside government agency for our drinking water. We are totally self-sufficient and should strive to remain that way.

5. In the unlikely event that we need additional water, the Hall County water line installed along Barkers Bend Dr. for fire protection, could be used as a drinking water source backup.

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