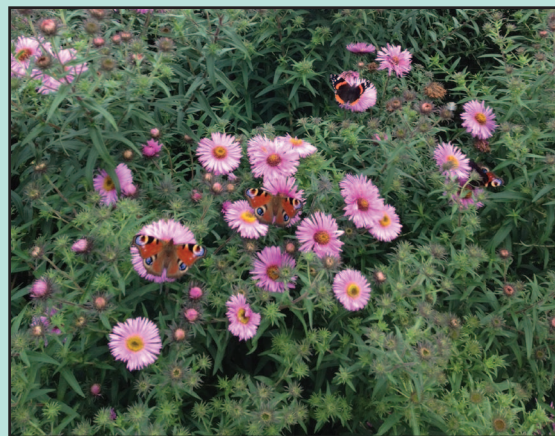


Free Landscape Classes

Since our landscape classes have been so popular we have decided to offer three more classes for this next year. Please join us at one of our free Saturday morning classes and learn how to create a beautiful, water-smart garden.

- Find and Fix a Leak - from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 27, 2013. – Learn how to maintain, troubleshoot, and repair your irrigation system and find out about some basic indoor plumbing tips. Discover a few ideas that will make it efficient and easy for you to repair and maintain your irrigation system. Get the basics on good maintenance practices that will help save you water, money, time, and keep your landscape looking beautiful. Participants to receive free high efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators, leak detection dye tablets, and toilet flappers.
- Graywater Workshop – from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 27, 2013. Back by popular demand, this workshop is sure to answer all of your questions related to graywater systems. Learn how to install your own system according to permit standards in Ventura County.



Attendance is limited to forty persons per class so please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 118. All workshops will be held in the boardroom at Casitas main offices located at 1055 Ventura Avenue in Oak View.

Casitas' Speakers Bureau: Provides an opportunity for customers and the community to learn more about water issues in the Western Ventura County area. Please contact Ron Merckling, Water Conservation and Public Affairs Manager, (805) 649-2251 Extension 118 to invite a speaker to your next community group or organizational meeting.



Please visit the new and improved Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County website at www.ventura.watersavingplants.com

Your Board in Action
 Bill Hicks, Division I
 James W. Word, Division II
 Pete Kaiser, Division III
 Mary Bergen, Division IV
 Russ Baggerly, Division V
 The Casitas Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at 3:00 p.m. in the board room located in the main office at 1055 Ventura Ave., Oak View, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

Join the Casitas Municipal Water District Facebook page to get the latest updates on water conservation and the Lake Casitas Recreation Area at: www.facebook.com/fbsitecasitasmunicipalwaterdistrict



1055 Ventura Ave.
 Oak View, CA 93022
 805-649-2251
www.casitaswater.org



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CASITAS WATER NEWS

Winter 2013



Landscape design from the Ventura County Water Wise Gardening website, courtesy of GardenSoft.

Check Out the New and Improved Ventura County Water Wise Website

Go to www.ventura.watersavingplants.com to view the new and improved landscape website that now boasts bigger images and photos to assist you with this year's winter planting in your garden. Visitors to the site can now store plant images and garden images to a private file on the site that can help you with planning your landscape. There are also six new garden tours and hundreds of additional garden gallery images added to the site. All of the gardens and plants on the site are from residential landscapes located within Ventura county.

"The new site has a handy revised watering guide to assist homeowners with adjusting their irrigation controllers so they can water their landscapes more efficiently," said Ron Merckling, Water Conservation Manager. The site now includes a partial plant name search tool. Typing the first few letters of a plant's botanical or common name will generate a list of photos and information about the plant from the site's extensive database.



Landscape design on website courtesy of GardenSoft.



use our QR Code with your smart phone to visit: "Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County"



CASITAS
 Municipal Water District
 1055 Ventura Ave, Oak View 93022

FREE WATER SURVEY
 available to customers of

Casitas Municipal Water Dist.
 Golden State Water Co.
 Hermitage Mutual Water Co.
 Meiners Oaks County Water Dist.
 Senior Canyon Mutual Water Co.
 Siete Robles Mutual Water Co.
 Sisar Mutual Water Co.
 Tico Mutual Water Co.
 Ventura River County Water Dist.

(805) 649 - 2251 ext 110



Brian Taylor, Pipeline Forman for Casitas climbs down into Casitas' three-way structure.

Reliable Water Service Requires Continuous Maintenance

The primary goal of the Casitas Municipal Water District is to provide reliable water service to each and every customer. To achieve this goal, the District continually performs preventative maintenance, repairs and replacements of water infrastructure. In many instances, the work to maintain, repair or replace water infrastructure requires an additional effort to provide continuous water service or minimize the water outage experienced by the customer.

On September 21, 2012, residents, farmers, and businesses were asked to reduce outdoor and non-essential indoor water use while the primary water main from Casitas Dam was temporarily shutdown, repaired, and restored to service. The work took place at the three-way structure, located in Ventura County's Foster Park. Once the 42-inch diameter pipeline was dewatered, Casitas' crew replaced a critically located elbow line in need of repair, and then began to refill the pipeline. Many residents of Casitas Springs experienced a water outage for the day. Casitas provided portable water tanks at various locations for use by the community.

"Casitas would like to express appreciation to customers that were without water during the day and to customers that curtailed their water usage to avoid unexpected water outages," said Steve Wickstrum, General Manager. "We are also thankful for the cooperation by the City of Ventura in assisting with the dewatering of the pipeline," said Wickstrum.

Maintaining Casitas Dam is Critical to Western Ventura County



Newly refurbished intake gate assembly arriving ready to be returned to service.

Maintaining a safe and reliable water supply for the public starts with ongoing repairs and maintenance of Casitas Dam. Since Casitas Dam's construction in 1959, it has remained essential to public health and safety, vital to the local economy, and indispensable to the quality of life of western Ventura County. "The most noticeable value of Casitas Dam to many members of the public is an improved quality of life through recreational opportunities, scenic values, and wildlife habitat, but the most important value is for water supply storage," said Ron Merckling, Public Affairs Manager.



Scott MacDonald performing maintenance on 4'x4' emergency gate guides deep inside dam's outlet works.

"Usually the public pays very little attention to basic water systems; that is, until a pipe bursts, the street floods, or, more tragically, a dam fails", said

Merckling. Casitas must work continuously to maintain infrastructure such as the Casitas Dam to prevent interruptions in water service and serious failures in the system. To ensure Casitas Dam remains safe and meets all regulatory standards, the District conducts ongoing monitoring and maintenance programs under the direction of the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

A few recent and ongoing Casitas Dam projects include:

- 1) An inspection and repair of the interior and exterior of the dam's intake and outlet works, infrastructure that allows water to be taken from the lake and brought into the treatment plant before it can be delivered to the public. This work is completed every three years;
- 2) Refurbishment of the intake gate assemblies. There are nine separate assemblies that allow for water to be taken at different depths in the lake. Water quality varies by lake depth depending on temperatures and biological processes in the lake so being able to select the best depth to take water from the lake improves the raw water quality that is brought into the treatment plant;
- 3) Recoating of the dam's control house hoist, metalwork, work platforms and intake track. This infrastructure is what allows for the intake gate assemblies to be placed into the lake and removed when needed for maintenance.



Setting up scaffolding for recoating of dam's hoist house equipment and intake track.



Customer Water Service Kept on throughout Reservoir Tank Work

How do you complete work on the only water tank in a service area and keep customers happy by keeping their water running? Casitas' answer is to use temporary water tanks! Casitas is planning to avoid any interruption in water service to customers in the Upper Ojai Valley while completing interior painting and seismic improvements on the Upper Ojai Reservoir tank. The temporary water tanks will provide the necessary water storage during the work. After this work is complete, the temporary tanks will be used during future reservoir maintenance activities.



Neil Cole, Principal Civil Engineer stands in front of 16 temporary water tanks to be used during work on Upper Ojai Reservoir tank.

Lake Casitas Recreation Area Announcements:

Summer Lifeguards Needed!

Casitas Water Adventure is now recruiting for summer lifeguard jobs for the 2013 season. Employment applications can be downloaded at www.casitaswater.org under the employment tab. Applications can be mailed or turned in to the Lake Casitas Recreation Area 11311 Santa Ana Rd. Ventura, CA 93001. Requirements include being 15 years old by February 1st 2013; successful completion of American Red Cross Lifeguarding course; and clear a background check and drug test.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Wall, Parks Services Officer 3 at awall@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2233 Extension 114.



Lake Casitas Lifeguards Garrett Carlson and Angela Amico at work in the Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

Don't Miss Out on this Year's Kid's Fishing Day, Saturday March 23, 2013.