



## NEWS

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Photos attached also can be obtained courtesy of McGoodwin, Williams & Yates:  
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### **THEA HUGHES NAMED AS JAMES BAILEY MEMORIAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

*Photo Caption: From left - Thea Hughes, general manager for Jacksonville Water Utility, with David Poe, president of the Arkansas Water Environment Association.*

Hot Springs, Ark. – Thea Hughes, general manager for Jacksonville Water Utility, received the James Bailey Memorial Educator of the Year Award. The award was presented recently at the annual Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association (AWW&WEA) Conference in Hot Springs.

Hughes has been with the Jacksonville utility for 29 years, starting in 1988 as secretary. With a bachelor degree in management and later an Associate Degree in Business Management, Hughes education, experience and dedication to the utility resulted in promotions and in 2000 being named general manager.

Hughes became general manager the same year as the new Johnson Wastewater Treatment Plant was put into service. Her management and close interaction with state regulatory agencies was imperative to the changeover from the West and East Treatment Plants, and continues to be imperative as regulations regarding effluent become more stringent.

Among the major accomplishments for the utility under her management have been the award-winning Can the Grease and Wipe Out Wipes education initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of sewer backups and system blockages. In recognition of her service, Hughes was named 2008 Manager of the year by the Arkansas Water & Wastewater Managers' Association. She is also active within the Community serving on various non-profit as well as civic boards.

Hughes has been an active member of the Water Environment Federation, the Arkansas Water Environment Association, the Arkansas Water & Wastewater Manager's Association, the American Water Works Association and the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association.

The James Bailey Educator of the Year Award is presented annually at the AWW&WEA event to acknowledge an Arkansan who strives to inspire fellow Arkansans with enthusiasm and desire to protect the state's water environment, understand environmental issues and further environmental education.



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