



The Clarifier



A Utility Operations and Public Works Management Company

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Corporate Profile

ESG Operations, Inc. was established in 2003, and is one of the nation's fastest growing utility and public works management companies. ESG provides operations, maintenance and management of utility and public works systems along with a wide range of engineering consulting services.

We are here to serve you.

If you have questions regarding our services, please contact us at 478-474-5025.

**Providing a Better Today
Planning for a Better Tomorrow**

www.esginc.net

Good Health → Good Life

ESG Launches Health and Wellness Initiative

DID YOU KNOW according to the World Health Organization, that 80% of all heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, and up to 40% of cancers, could be prevented if people ate healthier, exercised more, and stopped using tobacco?

Physical activity is essential to prevent and reduce risks of many diseases and improve physical and mental health. It can even help you live longer. Other positive outcomes include a sense of purpose and value, a better quality of life, improved sleep, and reduced stress, as well as stronger relationships and social connectedness. One of our company goals in 2014 is to assist employees in identifying creative, actionable solutions to healthcare challenges. We are committed to helping each employee develop the most effective plan to achieve the positive results desired to meet individual health and wellness goals.

COMPANY HEALTH AND WELLNESS GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR INCLUDE:

- 1 Keep low-risk individuals at low risk, reach out to moderate-risk individuals to keep them from moving into high-risk status, help manage high-risk individuals so that they can achieve the best possible health outcome down the road.
- 2 Empower employees and dependents to live healthier lives by avoiding risky behaviors and making wise lifestyle choices and decisions.
- 3 Educate, engage and inspire employees to take responsibility for their health, to achieve optimal wellness, increase productivity and improve quality of life.
- 4 Offer a comprehensive, results-oriented strategy that supports the health and well-being of employees and their families, while controlling escalating healthcare costs.

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ESG Welcomes Utilivision, Inc. to the ESG Family of Companies

We are excited to welcome Utilivision, Inc. (UTV) to the ESG family of companies. UTV is a full service tank maintenance and asset management company.

Water tanks are one of the most critical components to any utility system. They require a robust maintenance program to ensure reliability, sanitary conditions, security and customer representation in the community. With changing regulations, water tank management is more critical now than ever before to ensure compliance throughout the entire water system. A full asset management program provides continuity in maintenance as well as continual inspection to eliminate potential issues before they arise.



Welcome New UTV Associates

NATHAN WEST
Utilivision Project Manager

We welcome Nathan West, Project Manager for UTV. Nathan has 10 years' experience in the water tank industry. He currently resides in Macon, Georgia with wife Laresa and daughter Mercer, and enjoys fishing and golf during his free time.

JOSH WAID
Utilivision Field Supervisor

We welcome Josh Waid, Field Supervisor for UTV. Josh has 10 years' experience in the water tank industry, and has been married for 18 years with two children and a new granddaughter. In his free time, Josh enjoys hunting and fishing, as well as spending time with family.

WINTER SPACE HEATER SAFETY

During this season of the year, many people use small space heaters when their main heating system is inadequate or too costly to install or operate. These units commonly run on electricity, propane, natural gas, and kerosene. Safety is a top consideration when using space heaters. **More than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters**, resulting in more than 300 deaths. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting the hot surfaces of room heaters. When buying and installing a small space heater, consider these safety guidelines:

- Only purchase newer model heaters that have all of the current safety features. Make sure the heater carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label.
- Locate the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic. Be especially careful to keep children and pets away from the heater.

Electric space heaters are the only unvented space heaters that are safe to operate inside your home. When buying and installing an electric space heater, you should follow these general safety guidelines:

- Electric heaters should be plugged directly into the wall outlet. If an extension cord is necessary, use a heavy-duty cord of 14-gauge wire or larger.
- Buy a unit with a tip-over safety switch, which automatically shuts off the heater if the unit is tipped over.



HUMAN RESOURCES

This is an exciting time to be an ESG Operations' employee as we find more ways to contribute to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and culture for our employees and their families.

ESG feels strongly that it is important not only to attract and engage the most talented employees in our industry, but to provide our associates opportunities to take care of themselves and maintain the best health possible.

Over the coming months, **Connie Skinner, ESG Benefit Coordinator**, will be establishing Wellness Champions at each Project. With Corporate's assistance, the Wellness Champion's role is to help coordinate wellness activities and share communication with you about the importance of managing your health.

Please call **Corporate Human Resources at 404-478-5025** if you have any questions.



ESG Engineering has completed design and technical support projects in Warner Robins, Waycross, Opelika, Tifton, Barnesville, Rockdale and Perry. We are currently in the process of completing

or working on several projects in Vidalia, Winder, Waycross, Rockdale, Warner Robins and Tifton. The projects range from modeling water main networks to storm water improvements that will address flooding issues and also include minor water and wastewater plant upgrades to Stormwater Utility work.

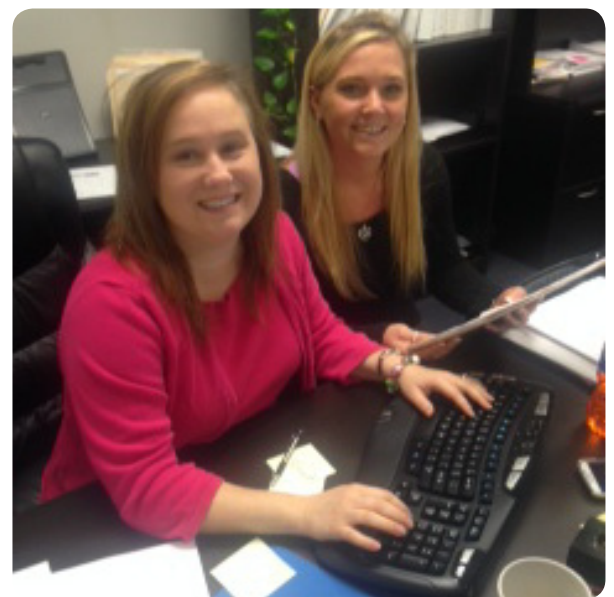
If your project has the need for our services in areas described above or any other areas that we can help you or bring added value to our clients, please call Ray Richard or Kristen Courson. We look forward to continuing to assist and support our projects in 2014 and beyond.

NEW CORPORATE OFFICE STAFF

We are delighted to welcome **DeeAnn Geeslin, Executive Administrator**, to ESG Corporate staff. DeeAnn brings extensive experience to support our Team in ESG's growth. A native Maconite and mother to three grown children, DeeAnn loves entertaining, trips to the beach, and family get-togethers.



DeeAnn Geeslin



Heather Harris (left) and Amy Laughlin (right)
Corporate Accounting

We also recently welcomed to Corporate Accounting—**Heather Harris, Senior Accountant** and **Amy Laughlin, Accounts Payable Clerk** (with a background in data entry). Heather has 15 years of experience in accounting. Having recently moved to Macon from the Florida Panhandle, she and her family are enjoying exploring the sights and sounds that Macon has to offer. Amy is originally from Henry County, Georgia. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her children (Kaylee, Jude, and Katie) and newlywed husband, Brandon.



RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



ESG EXPANDS SERVICES TO CITY OF TIFTON

It has been another busy summer and fall in Tifton as ESG has expanded our services to the City to include **Collections and Distributions** for both the City and a portion of Tift County. On September 3, 2013, ESG added **22 new associates** to the already-existing staff of 18 in water and wastewater. Our new scope of work includes water and sewer line maintenance for all of the City of Tifton and a part of Tift County, meter reading for water and gas meters, engineering, and all line locating. Some of the new technology being implemented in Tifton includes PSD, which is a new work order system customized for ESG. The new system incorporates easier to navigate menus and a simplified user interface. **Thank you, Team Tifton, for your dedication and commitment to serving this community!**

TEAM TIFTON MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THESE ESG/TIFTON ASSOCIATES are making a difference in their community. **Photos above, left to right.**

- **Tabitha Griggs** handles all of the administrative duties for the department
- **Mickey Roberts** performs repairs to the Southwest Lift Station
- **Tony Clark** handles locates for water, sewer, gas, storm drains and traffic lights
- **Josh Harris** performs all preventative and responsive maintenance for the Collection System



Casey Marshall and Adam Cobb review water and sewer main locations



Representing over 70 years of service to the City of Tifton
Left to right, Alonzo Wilson, Charles Johnson (Supervisor) and Daryl Smith

RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Left to right, Brian Rowland, Chris Bromlow (Superintendent), Randall Mathis, Chesley Culpepper and Larry Troupe coordinate the work within the department



Servicing the Boring Machine
Left to right, Brent Danforth, Josh Lindsey and Randy Riley

WITH MUCH APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE

EMPLOYEES LENDING A HELPING HAND

With much appreciation there are 3 employees who need to be recognized for their assistance and expertise.

The employees at City Hall would like to extend a THANK YOU to **Zoe Wilson**, **Chuck Hester**, and **Brent Danforth** for lending a helping hand and going beyond their normal job duties to help out a co-worker.

Thank you guys so much!

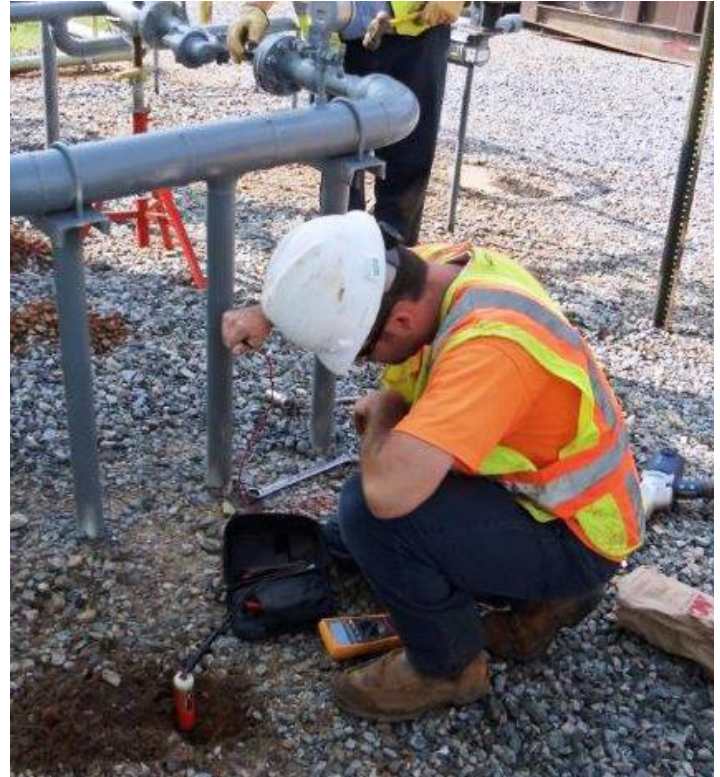




RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The City of Perry wastewater plant is preparing to begin construction of plant upgrade in January, 2014. Plans are to add an influent screen, clarifier, and filters to ensure we continually meet the B2 limits.
- City of Perry's Natural Gas department has strengthened the gas system's cathodic protection by eliminating many short circuits throughout the system.
- The City's Water Plant is currently getting a new roof with plans to repaint the interior in the near future.
- Team Perry kicked off our wellness program, by electing the newest team member **Iris Armstrong** as Perry's Wellness Champion.
- ESG/Perry has begun a \$500,000 Slip Lining project with Insituform—covering 6,000-plus feet of our collection system.
- Line Maintenance personnel completed smoke testing at the Georgia National Fairgrounds finding a few large sources of I&I.



UPCOMING PROJECT GOALS

- With permit changes and construction at Perry's wastewater facility, our goal is to maintain compliance.
- ESG/Perry is working to strengthen our wellness program and encourage employees to get involved.
- Line Maintenance personnel continue to work in changing out the 64 hydrants throughout the City in order to increase ISO rating.

TEAM PERRY FAMILY NEWS

- The ESG Family extends sympathy to **Brandon West** in the death of his mother in October 2013.
- The ESG Family extends sympathy to **Antwann Fann** in the death of his grandmother in October 2013.

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CONGRATULATIONS,
TEAM PERRY ASSOCIATES
ON THESE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grady Shirey obtained his Mississippi Class A Water and Backflow certification.

Mike Robinson obtained his Class 3 Water license

Billy Crowe obtained his Collection license.



TEAM ROCKDALE-UASB “TAKEDOWN”

A significant project in recent weeks for ESG/Rockdale was the “takedown” of the UASB industrial process. The UASB is an “Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket” Digester that treats a very high SCOD from an industry. During the normal process, inert material is formed and remains in the digester. During normal operation, the digester effluent is removed from the top of the digester and is treated by the Quigg Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The inert material that remains settled at the bottom of the digester has to be removed periodically; hence, the reason for the “takedown.” This is a significant process—taking about 7 days from stopping the flow to resuming operation—and includes draining a 550,000 gallon digester into Geo tubes to allow for the separation of the water and solids. The water was then diverted to the treatment plant for processing and the captured solids were landfilled.

After draining the digester, approximately 4 feet of inert solids remained in the digester and had to be removed by a contractor by means of vacuum equipment. After all of the material was removed, the digester was sealed up and was reseeded with active biomass. That biomass was trucked in from other industrial sources that utilize the similar UASB technology. Rockdale’s UASB was reseeded with 35 truck loads, approximately 65,000 kg, of active volatile biomass. Some of these loads were shipped from as far away as New York.

An extensive team was put together to plan and execute this monumental project. The team included ESG associates from Rockdale, Macon, Augusta and Warner Robins, along with Pratt Industry employees, and Rockdale County Water employees. The project was completed on time/as scheduled with no accidents nor injuries. ESG/Rockdale would like to extend a very sincere “thank you” to the “Takedown Team.” Each and every person was vitally important to the success of this project.

ROCKDALE’S NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS

Robert Kersey

Operator (Southside)
Transferred from Winder Project

Thomas Slusher

Mechanic (Quigg Branch)

ESG/Rockdale is working towards having **two new licensed wastewater operators** and **one (part-time) CDL driver.**

TEAM ROCKDALE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ESG/Rockdale participated in Rockdale County’s annual community service project—“Rivers Alive” on Saturday, October 12. A total of 12 ESG employees were a part of the annual volunteer waterway cleanup event that targets all waterways in the State including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and wetlands. The mission of “Rivers Alive” is to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia’s water resources. Additionally, ESG/Rockdale donated food for the cookout that took place after the clean-up. Leftover food was then donated to Rockdale County Emergency Relief. (RER is a not-for-profit organization in Rockdale that provides emergency financial food and clothing assistance to its residents.)



RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



ESG's Team Winder and City Work Together to Solve Problems

The City of Winder and the ESG Team have begun working closer together than ever. In order to help reduce the overall costs of maintenance at their facilities, equipment owned by the City has been identified and made available for use by the crews within ESG. Use of the City's crane truck has enabled crews to perform work that previously required an outside contractor. In addition, the use of the City's bucket truck has allowed ESG safer access to difficult to reach equipment when performing maintenance.

Additional savings to the client have been realized by utilizing ESG resources outside of our project. Utilizing resources from Augusta has been a tremendous help in making repairs to influent screening and raw water pumping.



ESG welcomes groups to tour the water and wastewater treatment facilities and learn more about how these processes impact the community

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ESG has hosted multiple groups at the Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities. These groups typically begin in a classroom setting and conclude with a tour of the treatment processes. The local schools have been touring these facilities for several years and this year's tours drew several comments from the teaching staff noting the improved look of the facilities. **Educational involvement is a great way to integrate our operations into the community.**

RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

WINDER STAFF ENJOYS BARBECUE LUNCH HOSTED BY ESG CORPORATE

Clay Sykes, Dan Groselle and John Eddlemon hosted the annual ESG/Winder Barbecue in October. It was a great opportunity for our staff and client to enjoy fellowship. Everyone on staff commented how much they enjoyed the food and the opportunity to see and converse with people that they don't get to see on a daily basis. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN!

After the cookout, ESG attended the Winder City Council meeting and presented a rebate check in the amount of \$43,706.



ESG ASSISTING CITY OF WINDER IN STORM DRAIN DESIGN

ESG resources at the project and corporate level are working to lower the City's costs for storm drain projects. Designs are currently being created that will allow the City to save substantial dollars by avoiding having to contract out storm drain designs.

COLLECTION WORK HELPS PRESERVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

ESG/Winder Collections crews identified a leak that was threatening to undermine the high school tennis courts. ESG personnel were able to excavate the sink hole and repair the leak without disturbing the tennis courts which were adjacent to the excavation.



RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Completed Along with Major Facility Aesthetic Improvements—**A Job Well-Done!**



Refurbished Pipe Gallery



Rehabilitated Filter with New Console

Improving the appearance of Barnesville's Water Treatment Plant following an upgrade has been Team Barnesville's major project in recent months. ESG associates from **Warner Robins, Perry, Waycross** and **Augusta** also lent a helping hand with this monumental project. Team members put over 100 gallons of paint on the floors, walls, ceilings and fixtures; replaced numerous broken windows; rehabilitated and repaired two chemical feed systems; repaired a collapsing wall; and cleaned the facility from top to bottom until it shined! A job well-done by everyone who worked long hours to make this project a reality. Thank you to ESG employees from other projects who assisted ESG/Barnesville.



Plant Tour for Future Business Leaders



WTP Open House and Annual Project Cookout

ESG hosted an Open House along with our annual project cookout at the WTP. The new and improved facility was open to local officials and city employees. Everyone who attended enjoyed seeing the new facility and eating some great barbecue.



Dexter Thornton and Mike Hilyer, Jr. receive lab training from Lab Director Nannette Holder



Mike and Dianne Hilyer

CONGRATULATIONS... Mike Hilyer, Jr. and Dianne Helms who wed on March 21, 2013. Mike also received his Class III Wastewater certification. **Brandon Lewis** and **David Moore** both achieved their North Carolina Class IV Wastewater certification.



Construction Underway for New 2.4 MGD Activated Sludge WWTP

Construction continues at the WWTP for the new 2.4 MGD Activated Sludge facility. This \$12.4 million project is expected to be completed by October 2014. ESG has been active in the project with determining proper chemical feed system configurations and assisting with the selection of a solids dewatering system.

RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



BEFORE Cleaning



AFTER Cleaning

TEAM OPELIKA'S GROUNDS DEPARTMENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Team Opelika has cleaned up several of the City of Opelika's signs. The welcome signs located at the entrance to the City have all been cleaned; lighting has been repaired and the plantings have been refreshed. The photos above are "before and after" of the City's Northeast Industrial Park gateway sign. This endeavor was headed up by ESG/Opelika's Grounds Department.

MORE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Douglas and Covington • City's New Connecting Road

- ESG/Opelika has installed a **new impeller** on the mixer shaft at the Westside Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- The Sign Shop painted the stop bars and installed the 4-way stop signs on the **City's new connecting road**. The new road allows shorter passage from the West Ridge baseball park to the main Public Works Facility.

NEW ASSOCIATES

TEAM OPELIKA

- **K. Ross Coxwell** • Trades Worker
- **Corey Leverette** • Utility Technician
- **Eric Pritchard** • Public Works Assistant
- **Justin Sutton** • Groundskeeping Superintendent
- **James Thomas** • Utility Technician
- **Teunda Wimberly** • Utility Technician

TEAM OPELIKA REMOVES HAZARDOUS BUILDING

Team Opelika also recently removed an old hazardous building from Floral Park. The removal of this building increases the safety and aesthetics of the park.





RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Anthracite



Bryan Cloud backwashing filter using laptop

Filter Upgrade Project Completed CONVENTIONAL PLANT FILTERS NOW ONLINE WITH NEW UNDERDRAINS

The six month project consisted of replacing 3 of the 4 existing underdrains with low profile bolt down type gravelless underdrain system. During the construction period, ESG associates utilized a 3 inch eductor to transfer filter media between filters which greatly reduced construction time and man-hours. The final stage of the project was the installation of 38 tons of anthracite into the final filter by ESG associates.

LAPTOP PROVIDES AN ALTERNATIVE

In an effort to provide a more reliable means of locally backwashing the conventional plant filters, several options were considered before selecting the use of a laptop and an external WIFI antenna. **The contributing factors of the selection were cost, continuity, simplicity, and limited exposed to the elements.** Operators log into the plant SCADA by remote desktop to have full operational control of the plant including filter backwashing. Once the filter backwashing procedure is completed, the laptop is then returned to the control building.

WELLNESS PROGRAM



IN ACTION



BICYCLES AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AT THE WATER PLANT

With today's fast pace lifestyles, busy schedules and ESG's commitment to health and wellness, the use of bicycles is a welcome means of travel at the **27 acre facility** as a way to provide associates an opportunity for exposure to physical activities.



Pictured above: **Gary Harper** and **Bryan Cloud**



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

ONE OF THE GREAT PRIVILEGES ESG enjoys in the communities we serve is to partner with local high schools and colleges and provide work programs and internships for students.

Jesse Pilcher is a student at West Forsyth High School and has been working at ESG/Forsyth County.

Recently his Program Coordinator, Ann Williams, sent a note of commendation to Jesse's mother, Jill Pilcher. Mrs. Williams wrote: *"I wanted to take a minute to pass along high praise for Jesse. He is an incredible worker and an awesome student. His assignments are always on time, complete and well thought out. His supervisor at the plant is impressed with Jesse's work ethic, and each time he stops by to talk about what he is doing/learning, his whole face lights up. Thank you so much for your efforts to make this opportunity possible and to start Jesse on his career path. I appreciate the honor of being his program coordinator."*

In response to Mrs. Williams' kind words, Jesse's mother wrote: *"I can't take credit for the opportunity he was given. John Eddlemon, Todd Baldwin and the Forsyth County/ESG staff deserve all the credit. I am just happy that they were willing to take part in the work program. I am not sure if you were aware but they provided him with the training materials that he needs to take his wastewater test to obtain his license...Thank you for helping keep this type of program alive."*

ESG is proud of Jesse—and honored to be a part of helping to provide "on the job" experience to students contemplating a career path.

IN MEMORIAM



FOR 13 YEARS, ESG/TUPELO BENEFITTED FROM THE EXPERTISE OF LINDA TUTOR

Linda was an integral part of the ESG/Tupelo staff. Her responsibilities included examining the quality of our effluent, as well as the overall condition and operation of our plant. Tests such as BODs, TSS, Ammonia, pH, Coliform, Zinc, Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, and residual Chlorine—Linda handled them all.

Five days a week she analyzed samples from our local plants, local industries, as well as many municipalities and state parks around our area. On September 18, 2013, Linda was suddenly taken from her family and our project due to a sudden illness. A hole has been opened among us that can never be adequately filled. Linda is gone far too early, and will be missed mightily by her family, friends, and co-workers.

Linda, you were a strong and determined woman, motivated to excel. You were confident in your work and your desires for your children. This world is better and far more interesting for your presence. You are, and will be greatly missed.



It's that time of year again at the Augusta Project...the sound of 454 Chevy engines in the distance.

Each fall ESG/Augusta is tasked with preventing millions of migrating blackbirds from calling our constructed wetlands home using airboats to flatten dense vegetation. The artificial wetlands were constructed to help purify effluent from the J. B. Messerly Pollution Control Plant and are part of the Phinizy Swamp Nature Center which is adjacent to the plant. In addition, the plant also neighbors the Augusta Regional Airport where bird strikes are a safety concern.

The dense vegetation consisting of giant cutgrass, cattails and other growth helps to improve water quality and is an ideal habitat for the redwing blackbird.

“We started seeing large numbers of blackbirds coming into the area, and it took a few years to find the best way to address it,” said Allan Saxon, the Assistant Utilities Director.

Although aviation officials wouldn't be concerned about a few blackbirds, the flocks roosting nearby grew rapidly, peaking in 2005 at nearly 15 million birds in a single night.

“What we found is that they were roosting here, then feeding in a 50-mile radius, as far south as Sandersville, and then coming back in the evenings,” Saxon said. “They prefer dense vegetation 15 to 18 inches above standing water, so it's the perfect environment.”

The airboats, which arrived in Augusta this week, are used to flatten and crush the standing vegetation, making the area unsuitable for roosting blackbirds. Crushing the plants in the fall keeps the area nearly bird-free through winter, and the plants regrow in spring.

The use of airboats to mash vegetation was first tried in 2005 and adopted as an annual deterrent in 2008 after trials documented its effectiveness. (*Augusta Chronicle*)

This year a crew, based in Louisiana, is using two airboats to mash the vegetation.

FAMILY NEWS AT ESG/AUGUSTA



New Industrial Pretreatment Program/Laboratory Manager

Meet Brice Doolittle

Augusta native **Brice Doolittle** was recently selected as the IPP/Lab Manager. Joining ESG in August 2012, Brice has worked in operations and is part of the Condition Assessment Team. He attended Evans High School and graduated from Georgia College and State University in 2011 with a degree in biology and environmental science. His senior thesis was on stream remediation from wastewater/chemical spills using biodiversity samplings of freshwater insects and crayfish. His previous work experience was in a pharmaceutical production facility. October was a great month for Brice, not only did he become the manager of IPP/Lab but he also became engaged to Sarah Smith. We are glad to have Brice as a part of the ESG Team!

WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATES TO ESG/AUGUSTA

- Ty Todd** • Engineer in Training (*pictured above left*)
- Jabril Whitmore** • Operator in Training (*pictured above right*)
- Justin Andrews** • SSES Team

Ty Todd grew up in Holmwood, Louisiana and played some college baseball before graduating from McNeese State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is also a newlywed and his wife, Lauren, is attending Georgia Regents University pursuing a master's degree in Nursing Anesthesia. Ty is our "official" Cajun swamp hunter.

Jabril Whitmore hails from the "Gateway to the West"—St. Louis, Missouri. Jabril graduated from Claflin University located in Orangeburg, South Carolina with a degree in Management Information Systems and was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

In November, ESG/Augusta employees participated in the **Faith Food Factory, a part of the Golden Harvest Food Bank**. Volunteers sorted through thousands of donated items removing any expired or damaged products. Without the help of volunteers, the donations would not be available for distribution to the families and people in need.

Team Waycross • Waycross, Georgia

FLEET MANAGEMENT- FUEL SAVINGS INITIATIVE



IN THE SPRING OF 2013, ESG added Fleet Management to the services provided to the City of Waycross. This service not only lowers our client’s liability but the City vehicles were in poor condition and the City was looking at high replacement costs or (as many municipalities must do) supplying these vehicles from “already surplus” inventory that normally would be sold as junk.

Team Waycross immediately began evaluating what type of vehicles were needed to do specific project tasks with three specific goals:

- Continue to provide excellent service to our client and community.
- Reduce the number of fleet vehicles, if possible.
- Achieve a reduction in fuel costs by purchasing fuel conservative vehicles. **(Our goal was 20 MPG).**

With these specific goals in mind, ESG/Waycross began to survey the services provided and what type vehicle could best fit these roles. Several types of vehicles were researched including ATV vehicles. Initially, an ATV seemed to be a very wise idea. These vehicles are fuel efficient, are small and easy to maneuver, and do not require tags, registrations, etc. However, after further investigation, we discovered these vehicles would be limited to “inside the gate functionality only.” After reviewing ATV vehicles that are outfitted for road use, the cost was almost (and in some cases more) than an entry level car or truck. Our conclusion: an ATV was not a wise choice. Next, we researched the 2 wheel drive vs. 4 wheel drive. We currently do not use 4 wheel drives for any specific tasks so we realized quickly that no real benefit would be gained by purchasing 4 wheel drive

vehicles. In fact, we have access to two 4 WD vehicles if the project ever has a need for this type of vehicle.

We looked thoroughly at every job/task and used the three goals to determine what type of vehicle fit the “profile” for that job. Example: Meter reading tasks could be conducted with cars if outfitted with the tools that are needed to complete the reading tasks and maintenance that this job requires. We then looked at what cars could be used for this role.

What is needed? A small car with adaptability that could accomplish the task of getting around town with ease and used less fuel. **Enter the Scion IQ.**

This vehicle can be set up to do a variety of jobs and has been used successfully by companies that conduct utility locate tasks. We test drove the Scion IQ and determined



Current Fuel Mileage = 21 MPG



Small and maneuverable



Roof Rack for Tools



it was a perfect fit! We also asked our employees to test drive and evaluate them for various roles/tasks. Our employees really liked them. The Scion was easy to drive, small enough to turn around in a city street and could easily hold all of the tools needed to complete not only reading tasks but meter change out tasks and even heavier maintenance.

Manufacturers of the Scion IQ suggest fuel mileage at 35 MPG on the highway. Reports confirmed this mileage and, additionally, the car is rated as the most environmentally green gas burning automobile on the planet! With ESG’s commitment to environmental stewardship—the most environmentally friendly car on the market made it a very attractive option. Below is a comparison of previous fleet mileage and current fleet mileage.

Vehicle	MPG	
WW1	14	Tacoma
WP1	14.5	Tacoma
MD1	19	Scion IQ
MD2	22.75	Scion IQ
MD3	16.8	Tacoma
Lab	21.8	Tacoma
MS3	23.8	Tacoma
Previous Average	9 MPG	
Current Average	19 MPG	

TOYOTA TACOMA

Next we looked at other types of vehicles we needed—light 2 WD trucks set up with tool boxes to conduct lift station checks, wastewater plant operations, water plant operations, laboratory sampling, etc. All needed the capability to pull a small trailer and haul submersible pumps, hoses and heavy valve keys, etc. So, light trucks were needed. Again, to meet the fuel goal it needed to be a truck with fuel economy. What better light truck exists on the market (and one of only two really available) than the Toyota Tacoma? ESG already owns a couple of these trucks (as part of our existing fleet) and their performance has been outstanding. In order for no interruption of service to occur, the new trucks were fitted with tool boxes and trailer hitches so we could accomplish any tasks across divisions, if necessary. Toyota Tacoma’s suggested fuel mileage is 23 MPG. So far we are very close to this gas mileage on the trucks that drive more miles “outside the gates.”

It is easy to gauge this overall initiative as an incredible success!

The opportunity to fully support our fleet in the second oldest project in our company had to be of value

to both the client and the project. Having a plan and specific goals for what you want to achieve when an opportunity like this occurs is paramount. Many municipalities “hand down vehicles” from one division to another—the contractor oftentimes gets the bottom of the barrel in terms of quality and most certainly fuel mileage. We realized this is a company expense so to maximize this capital expenditure, we had to create a fleet that would provide us with many years of service and could continue to meet the fuel savings that we set out to gain within this fleet exchange.

DOLLARS AND “SENSE”

ESG’s goal is always to conduct business and provide services that meet the unique needs of our clients and the communities we serve. The **Waycross Fleet Initiative** was a team effort which has resulted in extremely useful, efficient and environmentally friendly vehicles for our staff and is predicted to reduce our annual fuel bill by 50%!

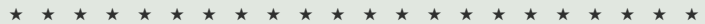
ESG is honored to serve the City of Waycross and we remain committed to finding new and innovative ways to create value each and every day.

EVER MOVED A LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE?

Team Waycross experienced a unique opportunity to participate in a locomotive relocation project. (CSX'S Progress Rail donated a locomotive engine to Okefenokee Technical College for training purposes). ESG staff members worked in conjunction with other city departments, as well as Utilco and CSX Transportation. City of Waycross staff were in charge of planning and preparation of the route from Carswell Avenue CSX Crossing to the college. ESG personnel participated by locating key valves for possible isolation along the travel route.



MORE PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FROM TEAM WAYCROSS



ESG/Waycross participated in the back to school program with the City of Waycross. **ESG donated 200 backpacks filled with school supplies for the new school year.**

The City of Waycross established the first annual Wayfest Gospel Concert. **ESG participated and assisted the City with preparations for the concert.** This year was a great kick-off event—and the City were was thrilled to welcome Georgia Bulldog's Head Coach Mark Richt's wife, Kathryn, and son, David.



The City of Waycross, along with ESG participation, held the 5th Annual JFiy Music Festival. JFiy was born and raised in Waycross and became a professional drummer. JFiy's nonprofit organization, *How Big is Your Dream?*, offers music programs to children and provides musical instruments, scholarships and mentorships for students.

Waycross Project Health and Wellness Program is Already a Great Success!

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2013, ESG/Waycross began implementing some Health Awareness programs. We created a “Health Station” which includes simple (fairly inexpensive) health monitoring equipment including weight scales, blood pressure monitor, body mass index/body fat analyzer, etc. Employees have been encouraged to use this equipment **anytime** during work hours as we recognize the awareness leading to healthier staff.

On Tuesday, October 15, one of our longest tenured employees, **Cary Taylor**, who handles all of our Collection & Distribution locating services for the City of Waycross, stopped by the station because he felt “faint and dizzy.” After several tests, it was determined his blood pressure was very high. The information available at the station encouraged Cary to seek medical care. He immediately went to the emergency room and was subsequently admitted to the hospital. The diagnosis was a conflict with medication that he was given to control cholesterol and blood pressure. One of the medications caused an “allergic” reaction and elevated his blood pressure to life threatening range. He was kept overnight and observed under care of the hospital medical staff. The medication was subsequently changed so that no conflict was present.

Another success story is our Distribution Manager **Lee Smith**. Recently, Lee’s blood pressure indicated elevated levels so he went to his physician who changed his medication. This helped Lee pass a CDL physical of which he normally had additional testing to do because of the blood pressure issue. We are grateful for our new Health and Wellness program—and glad to have an “onsite” Health Station.



The ESG/Waycross Health Station and the “free access” may have literally saved Cary’s life.

•

We have also seen a high level of interest in this station just from a curiosity standpoint. For example, employees have been observed to “compete” on who has the better blood pressure on three tests.



New Associate • Laughton Smith



DarcyAnn Kicklighter

Family News

FROM TEAM WAYCROSS

- Welcome **Laughton Smith**. Laughton works in our Meter Department as a Meter Reader.
- Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. **Dewayne Batten** on the birth of their granddaughter, DarcyAnn Marie Kicklighter. DarcyAnn was born on September 23, 2013.



Swift Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is Now Home to a Solar Farm

The Swift Creek wastewater treatment plant is now home to a solar farm. The City of Vidalia has entered into a contract with Hannah Solar to provide area for a 500 megawatt solar farm. The City will gain lease payments over a period of 20 years for the use of the land. This project is a result of federal funds available to reduce the carbon footprint nationwide. The City site was chosen from a lottery style acceptance of applications by Georgia Power.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT ESG/VIDALIA

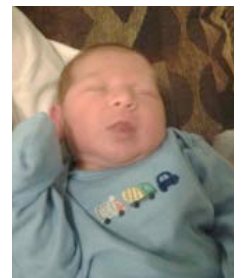
- ESG installed a drain system on Brumette Street that saved the City over \$6,000 by “in-sourcing” the work.
- ESG crews also performed in house the Roosevelt Street drainage improvements project. Contractors submitted bids totalling more than \$ 21,000 each. ESG performed the work for \$4,000—saving the City of Vidalia in excess of \$16,000.
- The City of Vidalia purchased 2 new 2013 Kubota diesel mowers for the Street Department.
- The City of Vidalia also purchased a new 2013 Vaccon to replace the 2001 Vaccon for the C&D Department.

PROJECT NEWS AT ESG/VIDALIA

- **Brian Thompson** • C&D
Received his Water Distribution Certification
- **Christy Hill** • Wastewater
Received her Class 3 Wastewater License
- **Mark Durden, Jr.** • Wastewater
Received Class 3 Wastewater License
- Congratulations to **Brian and Michelle Thompson** on the birth of their son, Gavin L. Thompson, born on May 4, 2013.
- Welcome, New Associate—**Rico Phillips**
Collection & Distribution Department
- Congratulations to **Bernie Yarbrough** on the birth of his daughter, Isadora J. Yarbrough, born on September 21, 2013.
- Congratulations to **Daniel Reynolds** on the birth of his son, Easton Clifton Reynolds, born on November 22, 2013.



Isadora J. Yarbrough



Easton Clifton Reynolds

Celebrating Five Years

Bernie Yarbrough (Street Department) and **Raymond Faircloth** (C&D Department) were recently recognized for completing five years of service with ESG/Vidalia.

RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



2013 We commend ESG Teams across the Southeast for their continued commitment to excellence in every area of service and delivery



Wakulla Wellness Living Healthy

Melissa Summers Shirah started the new year off with the goal of losing weight before her October 26th wedding. To help achieve her goal she joined Weight Watchers® and began TaeKwonDo classes (going 2-3 times weekly). Melissa has participated in two tournaments where she has been awarded 3 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals (see photo above). She currently holds a Level 1 Brown Belt. Melissa has lost (and kept off) 25 pounds! Congratulations, Melissa, on this remarkable achievement!

MORE PROJECT NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS



- **Brent Pell** received his Florida Class C water license
- Welcome new associate **John Robinson**, Driver/Operator
- ESG/Wakulla has resolved the I&I issue on Surd Road
- Resolved blocked sewer lines at SummerCamp
- Revised mowing routes in order to sustain wild flowers
- Rebuilt master lift station at Hickory Park



RECENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Construction is currently underway at Warner Robins' Wastewater Treatment Plant #2

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS FROM ESG/WARNER ROBINS

- The Warner Robins' Water Lab was awarded **Water Lab of the Year** by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)
- Installed a high service pump at Water Plant #1 (*photo at right*)
- Maintenance personnel are currently performing upgrades at several of the City's Water Plants
- ESG/Warner Robins has had no OSHA recordable injuries for the past 6 months
- **David Moore** and **Ben Morrow** are currently providing training classes to Operations personnel to prepare for the Class II exam and to operate the new Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- **Kelly Jarriel** has worked to increase the Land Application program and sites. An additional 250 acres has been added to the Land Application Program
- ESG/Warner Robins continues to assist with construction of new plant and administration building (*photos above*)



New High Service Pump at Water Plant #1

WELCOME, NEW ASSOCIATES

- **Dustin Stark** • Maintenance Tech/Lift Station Route Driver
- **Bobby Weeks** • Transfer from ESG/Winder

CONGRATULATIONS

ESG/Warner Robins' Water Lab awarded Lab of the Year by GAWP

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM WARNER ROBINS

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS

We congratulate these ESG/Warner Robins team members on these recent significant accomplishments:

Tamara Wright

Completed her Wastewater Class III certification

Barneika Williams

Completed her Wastewater Lab Analyst certification

Dusty McCallum • Austin McWaters • Charles O'Neal

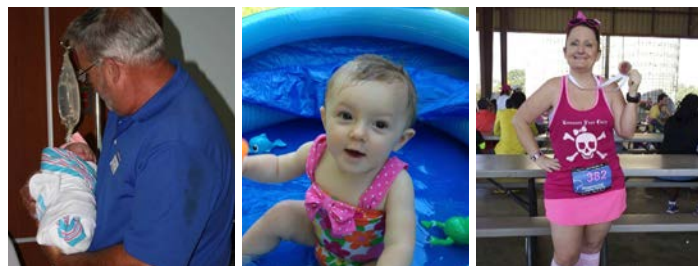
Received their Wastewater Class III certifications

Ben Morrow

Received his Wastewater Class II certification

CONGRATULATIONS

- **Charlie Dukes** and Sydney Alexis Wolfe were married on October 5, 2013
- **Joe Gibson, Water Plant Supervisor**, welcomed granddaughter, Abigail Kaye Gibson, on September 23, 2013 *(below left)*
- **Sharon Kelly's** granddaughter, Emma, celebrated her first birthday on September 27, 2013 *(below middle)*
- **Heather Hare, Office Manager**, ran a local 10K race to benefit breast cancer and placed 3rd in her age group *(below right)*



John "Mikey" Phillips, Wastewater Operator, leading his first monthly safety meeting. Mikey has participated in several OSHA safety courses and expressed interest in leading project safety training meetings



Warner Robins Mayor Chuck Shaheen and members of the City Council on site to review the progress of the Sandy Run WWTP upgrade



Kelly Jarriel and Chip Anderson installing the Moyno pumps at Sandy Run Wastewater Treatment Plant

ESG is proudly 100% American owned and operated

Fast Facts

Headquarters
Macon, Georgia

Number of Employees
400

Offices
15 offices across
the Southeast

Services
Water and Wastewater
Management
Public Works Management
Design-Build-Operate

History
Established in 2003
by cofounders,
Clay Sykes and Dan Groselle,
who set out to build a premier
utility operations company
based on the simple principle,
“**People deliver services,
not companies.**”

What we do is not unusual.
The way we do it is.



Partnering to Meet the
Demands of Today and the
Challenges of Tomorrow

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2013 was another **banner year** for ESG—
and we are grateful to our clients and employees.

The ESG family is comprised of 400 men and women with exceptional talents and abilities. These associates strive to give their best each day which enables ESG to provide innovative and exceptional service to our clients.

We never take this dedication and commitment for granted. At this season of the year, we want you to know we are grateful for you and for your contribution to our success.

