

For Immediate Release
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Contact: John Sewell
601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Proclaims 2002 as “Year of Clean Water”

(Jackson, MS) -- Governor Ronnie Musgrove today proclaimed 2002 as the “Year of Clean Water” in Mississippi, to mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the federal Clean Water Act, a milestone in our nation’s effort to protect our water resources. Throughout 2002, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will sponsor or participate in community events and education programs to commemorate the landmark legislation.

One such event is the national Youth Watershed Summit, October 6-10, 2002, at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Maryland. Approximately 200 students and 50 teachers from across the nation will be attending. This three-day forum will consist of a series of educational, work group and plenary sessions on watershed protection. Today, the Governor announced that the Amory High School Envirothon Team - Matthew Herndon, Kayla Horne, Anyslee Moon, Daniel Philley, David Walthen, along with their teacher Kim Parker - have been selected to represent Mississippi at the Summit.

“These fine young students and their teacher have been invited to attend the National Youth Watershed Summit, and will proudly represent our state,” Governor Musgrove said. Amory High School’s Envirothon team placed first in the Mississippi Envirothon, the nation’s largest high school environmental competition.

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Governor Musgrove announced another event celebrating the Year of Clean Water set for October 18, 2002: National Water Monitoring Day. On this day, citizen monitors will establish volunteer monitoring organizations. An inexpensive National Water Monitoring Day test kit is available through the national Year of Clear Water website, www.yearofcleanwater.com.

MDEQ has maintained a comprehensive program to ensure the quality of groundwater and drinking water. MDEQ Director Charles Chisolm said that Mississippi has taken many positive steps toward protecting the state's water quality, however there is still a lot of work to do.

“The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality believes the people of Mississippi deserve clean water,” Chisolm said. “While great strides have been taken to clean and protect our state's water resources since the enactment of the Clean Water Act, we must continue to be vigilant to preserve and protect one of our most valuable natural resources.”

For more information on national Year of Clean Water activities go to www.yearofcleanwater.com.

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