

# 2012 Water Quality Report

Gasparilla Island Water Association, Inc.

April 2013

## *A Message From GIWA*

Gasparilla Island Water Association, Inc. (GIWA) is pleased to present this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver every day. Our constant goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

This report explains the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. Our commitment is to ensure the quality of your water and meet all federal and state drinking water requirements. GIWA produced 385 million gallons of quality drinking water in 2012.

The water source is from groundwater wells that draw from both surficial and middle intermediate aquifers. Approximately 75% of the water comes from brackish water drawn from the middle intermediate aquifers and treated by reverse osmosis (RO). The remaining 25% is shallow well water drawn from the surficial aquifer that is treated by a color removal plant. The treated water from both plants is blended, a polymer added for corrosion control, and then disinfected with chloramines before pumping to the water distribution system.

GIWA also purchases water from Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) when the demand for water exceeds production capabilities or our plant is out of service for maintenance. Last year we purchased twenty-four (24) million gallons of water from CCU. For a copy of CCU's water quality data, please contact GIWA.

Our water system works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. GIWA asks all members to help protect and conserve our water source which is our way of life and our children's future.



Members are encouraged to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report or concerning GIWA, please contact Bonnie Pringle, Utility Director at 941-964-2423. GIWA's Board Meetings are held at 8:30 a.m. at our office (1700 East Railroad Avenue, Boca Grande) on the first Wednesday of each month.

This report will be mailed to members upon request or it is available at GIWA's office.

***GIWA's water  
meets or exceeds  
all  
Federal (EPA)  
and State  
established  
drinking water  
quality standards.***

## *How do I Read This Report?*

GIWA routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules, and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012. Data obtained before January 1, 2012, and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL:** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or MRDLG:** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Parts per billion (ppb):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.
- **Parts per million (ppm):** One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.
- **Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.



***MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink two liters of water at the MCL level every day for a lifetime for a one-in-a million chance of having the described health effect.***

## Gasparilla Island Water Association, Inc. 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Test Results

### Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium (ppm)	07/06/11	No	.0097		2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	08/13/12	No	.07		10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (ppb)	07/06/11	No	4.7		50	50	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits; discharge from mines
Sodium (ppm)	07/06/11	No	91		N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil

### Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products

Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chloramines (ppm)	Monthly 2012	No	2.3	.7 – 3.3	MRDL G = 4	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (five) (HAA5) (ppb)	08/20/12	No	28.8		N/A	MCL = 60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM (Total Trihalomethanes) (ppb)	08/20/12	No	52.2		N/A	MCL = 80	By-Product of drinking water disinfection

### Lead and Copper (Tap Water)

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of Sampling (mo./yr.)	AL Exceeded Y/N	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Result	Number of Sampling Sites Exceeding AL	MCLG	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	08/11 & 09/11	No	.095	None	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	08/11 & 09/11	No	1.1	None	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

**We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.**

## *What Can I Expect to Find in My Drinking Water?*

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.



Please **DO NOT FLUSH** your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains.  
For more information on proper disposal, please visit  
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>

## ***Source Water Assessment Plan***

In 2012 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at [www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/swapp).

There are three (3) potential sources identified for our system with low levels of concern for contamination. The potential sources are industrial wastewater permits for three (3) concrete plants. Those permits include conditions that are designed to protect groundwater and are monitored by FDEP to insure compliance.

Additionally, Charlotte County has a Wellhead Protection Ordinance in place that is designed to protect our water supply. This ordinance requires anyone wishing to conduct business within 1500' of our wells to enter into an agreement with GIWA which contains specific conditions to protect our water supply from contamination as a result of their operation.

## ***Lead in Drinking Water***

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. GIWA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## ***People with Special Concerns***

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

