

# March | April 2024 Newsletter

## Mineral Profile: Water to Beer Spotlight

It's time for a history lesson! Long before ACSA provided municipal water treatment, Albemarle County water was a critical component in beer served at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello home.

Peter Hemings, an enslaved man at Monticello, learned the malting and brewing processes and made the beer. Hemings' water sources likely differed from the reservoirs that now serve the ACSA; however, our local water's mineral profile provides insight into the unique taste of this historical brew.

The water used in beer at Monticello likely came from several sources (including rainfall, spring water and well water), each of which had its own unique chemistry. The most important chemicals in today's Albemarle water mineral profile include calcium chloride, magnesium sulfate and gypsum. While modern beer typically consists primarily of barley with wheat or corn as adjuncts, Monticello beer did not use barley since the crop was not grown on the land. Instead, Hemings' main ingredients included malted wheat and malted corn.

Hemings' Monticello beer was a very pale, slightly sweet ale and likely tasted quite different from today's beers. Want to learn more about the history of Albemarle water? Keep an eye out for more historical facts in our quarterly newsletters!



### Breweries That Use ACSA Water

Selvedge Brewing, Urban  
Decipher Brewing, Urban  
Starr Hill Brewery, Crozet  
Pro Re Nata Brewery, Crozet  
James River Brewery, Scottsville



## Four Tips for Spring Watering

April showers bring May flowers...and May flowers bring new opportunities to improve your water usage! As you prepare to work on your lawn and garden, keep these tips in mind:

- 1** Water early in the morning or late in the evening. This will minimize water loss from evaporation, ensuring every drop counts.
- 2** Adjust your sprinklers to avoid watering sidewalks, driveways and other areas without plants.
- 3** Mulch around plants. This retains soil moisture and reduces how often you need to water.
- 4** Use a rain barrel to collect and store rainwater. Then, recycle this water when caring for your plants.



# Fix-a-Leak Week



Fix-a-Leak Week is an annual initiative by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency dedicated to finding and fixing leaks in and outside your home. Fix-a-Leak Week 2024 is March 18 through 24, but don't worry – you can celebrate all year long! Here are a few tips:

- Regularly inspect all faucets and fixtures throughout your home for drips or leaks, including sinks, showers and outdoor spigots. Even a slow drip can waste significant amounts of water over time. If you notice any leaks, promptly repair or replace the faulty components, such as worn washers or seals, to prevent water loss and potential damage to your property.
- Check for silent leaks in your toilet tank by adding a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If you don't flush and color appears in the bowl, you have a leak.
- Keep an eye on your water bill. Spot an unexpected increase? You probably have a leak.
- Check outdoor faucets and hoses for leaks, especially after winter freezes and thaws.

For more information, visit the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website](https://www.epa.gov).

# Executive Director Gary O'Connell Announces Retirement



I will be retiring from the ACSA on June 30, 2024, after 14 years as your executive director. It has been a fun and rewarding journey to work on providing safe, clean and reliable Albemarle water to our 23,000 customers.

We have a great team here at ACSA that takes pride in making the customer experience as good as it can be. I know that commitment and focus will continue into the future, including some strategic customer service improvements coming your way over the next two years. There have been many capital investments made to ensure high-quality water at your tap. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service in this community, and thank you for your support over the years. The ACSA Board of Directors will be going through a recruitment process to find my successor.

*Gary*

[Click Here to view the Water Quality Report](#)



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