



Ozark Waters

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WHEN THE NEXT KID GETS SLAPPED, WHAT DO WE LEARN?

By John E. Moore, Jr.

A story is told about the parents who took their third grade son, Jimmy, to his new school on opening day. They wanted to visit with Jimmy's teacher to relate what a bright, capable student he was, and his mother added that he was also an unusually sensitive child. Jimmy's dad went on to say that Jimmy could also be somewhat rowdy on occasion and might misbehave or act out in class. But because Jimmy was so sensitive, his dad suggested that if this should occur, the teacher should just slap the kid sitting next to him and Jimmy would quickly get the idea and behave himself.

The point here is what we can learn from what happens to others. Are we observant and sensitive enough to take advantage of things going on around us that are relevant to us? Does the experience, both good and bad, of others guide us in our decisions and behavior, and going beyond the personal, in our social planning and policy? One doesn't have to look too far to take some important lessons from the news today.

The November 26th edition of Time Magazine has an article entitled "Holy Water," subtitled "Searching for divine intervention when the solution lies at home." It's about the drought in Georgia and the south-



Lake Lanier in Cumming, Ga.

AP Photo

www.cbsnews.com/.../national/main3412259.shtml

eastern part of the United States. The news media have been filled with reports recently about this problem and its implications for communities like Atlanta. The introductory paragraphs to the Time article should constitute a significant "slap" to us all and I quote them here for that purpose:

"Georgia was enduring its worst drought in a century and it had already asked President Bush and the Supreme Court for relief. So on November 13, Republican Governor Sonny Perdue appealed to a higher power, hosting a statehouse vigil to 'pray up a storm,' begging God to bring the rain he had withheld for 14 months.

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THE NEXT KID

Continued from pg. 1

“But it wasn’t God who allowed an outdoor theme park to build a million-gallon mountain of artificial snow while the Southeast was running dry; it was Governor Perdue and his fellow elected officials. They also allowed the wasteful irrigation of Georgia’s cotton farms and the rampant overbuilding and overslurping of metropolitan Atlanta.

“Like Hurricane Katrina or the California wildfires, this drought was a natural event turned into a natural disaster by human folly . . .”

What lessons does this situation in Georgia teach us here in the Ozarks? If we take to heart their experience we can quickly conclude that droughts happen here, that growth and development place increasing demands on our water supply (are we “overslurping” too?) and that planning for adequate water supply and use policies should be a priority concern.

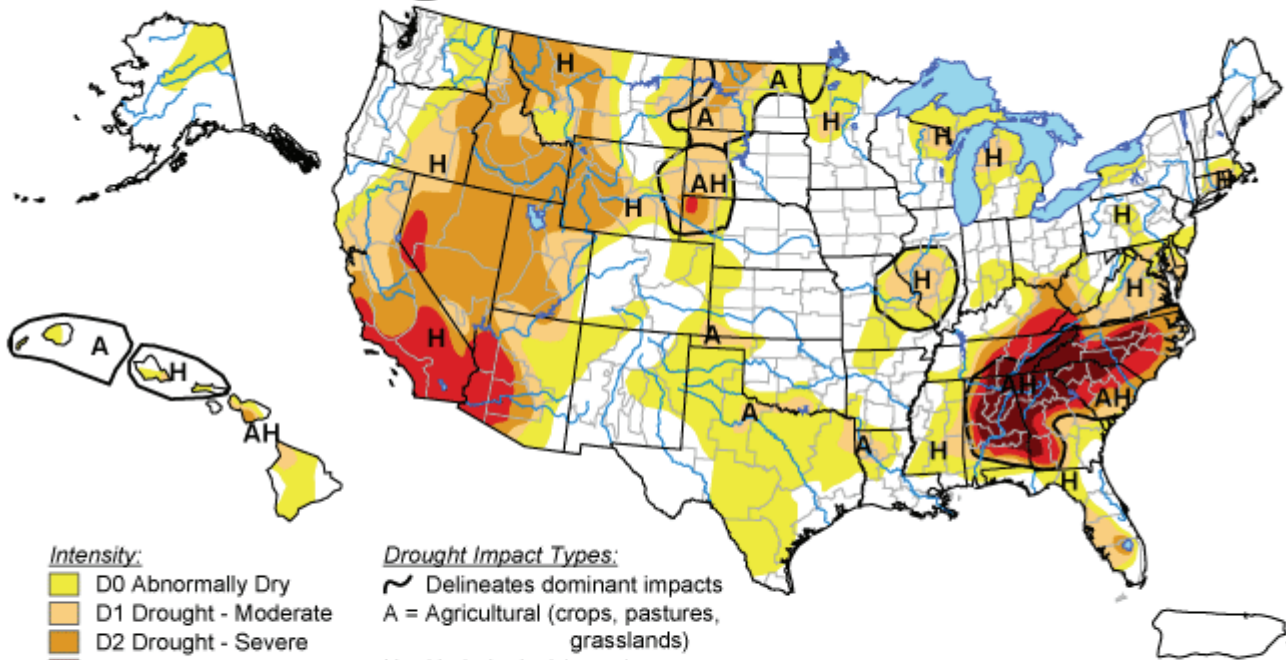
The Joplin area currently is reported to have about eight to ten years before their demand for water ex-

ceeds their supply; Springfield is trying to resolve its pumping problems to ensure that water can be brought from Stockton Lake when local rainfall is inadequate to keep the local reservoir full; and there are growing concerns that ground water levels in the Ozarks continue to be drawn down. Clean, adequate water is not only essential for life; it’s also the foundation of our economy and an important element in our lifestyle.

Human nature being what it is we are often slow to recognize and act on problems coming our way. I believe that maintaining clean, abundant water in the Ozarks is recognized as an important concern which deserves even more attention. The last thing in the world we want to happen is to have a natural event turned into a natural disaster by our own inattention. It’s also clear to me that the kid sitting next to us has just been slapped, and we need to be sensitive enough to get the idea quickly.

U.S. Drought Monitor

November 20, 2007
Valid 7 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Wednesday, November 21, 2007

Author: Richard Heim/Liz Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

BASIN NEWS

Project keeps septic waste out of Table Rock

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007711200366>

A \$2 million water-quality project could attract a new kind of tourist to Table Rock Lake. People from throughout the United States interested in keeping septic sewage out of lakes are likely to be drawn to a five-year demonstration project wrapping up in Stone County.

New water council setting priorities

Benton County Daily Record

<http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/News/56023>

The Multi-basin Regional Water Council, a newly formed organization of water-related organizations will, at its next meeting, get a consensus on what is the area's most urgent water-related question, and then figure out how to address it, the group's interim chairman said.

Officials offer status report on aquifer study

The Joplin Globe

http://www.joplinglobe.com/siteSearch/apstorysection/local_story_325205430.html

A federal study, with results due in 2009, is expected to tell area residents whether they will have enough water to drink in the near future and whether the water will be safe to drink.

Dade County passes CAFO ordinance

The Joplin Globe

http://www.joplinglobe.com/archivesearch/local_story_327211456.html

Talk that a large hog farm could be coming to Dade County was enough to get a controversial health ordinance passed by commissioners last week.

In our view: Way to go Dade County

The Joplin Globe

http://www.joplinglobe.com/archivesearch/local_story_330224145.html

Dade County Commissioner Carl Beerly voted his conscience last week. "I've never felt better about doing anything before in my whole life," Beerly said of his action.

Repopulation hopes grow with mussels

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007711190357>

Water pollution, habitat loss and competition from invasive species like zebra mussels, which can clog water intake pipes and damage boat hulls, have all taken their toll on the mollusks.

CAFO lawsuit. A definitive challenge?

Columbia Daily Tribune

<http://archive.columbiatribune.com/2007nov/20071120comm001.asp>

The lawsuit filed against the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Director Doyle Childers to stop construction of a hog farm near Arrow Rock might be the most definitive test to date in this growing body of controversy.

WATER NEWS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

Sierra Club releases list of wastewater discharge permit violations

The Joplin Globe

http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local_story_331123826.html

Crowder site of E-conference seminars

The Neosho Daily News

<http://neoshodailynews.com/articles/2007/11/25/news/02seminars.txt>

From sewage, added water for drinking

The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/11/27/us/27conserve.html>

Oklahoma: EPA reports \$7M in fines, improvements

MSNBC.com

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21837556/from/ET/>

Restoration of Florida Everglades stalls

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007711220349>

Scrap tires can be used to filter wastewater

Science Daily

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/11/061119122222.htm>

Choose a living tree this Christmas

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007711250307>

New water-saving toilets gaining popularity

Springfield News-Leader

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007711260332>
