

# 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.

