

## Vendome Well - A Mark in History

Article compiled by  
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*WorldWide Drilling Resource®*

The Vendome Well of Oklahoma is the largest artesian well in the state and attracts more than 1.3 million visitors a year. It's located in Sulphur, named for the area's numerous sulphur wells and springs. The Vendome Well taps into the Arbuckle Simpson aquifer which was discovered by the indigenous people of the southern plains who believed the aquifer contained

healing qualities.

When the Vendome Well was drilled in 1922, water shot 28 to 32 feet\* in the air, and had an outpour of 3500 gallons\* per minute at a temperature of 65°F (18.3°C). The excess water was channeled into a man-made plunge pool, becoming a popular tourist attraction. The well and plunge was a joint venture of John Townsley and Frank Lewis and was given the name Vendome after a spa in Germany of the same name.

Artesian wells are special because they are pumpless wells. Pressure accumulates underground through rock layers and, in an effort to relieve pressure, the



*The Vendome Well.*

*Photos courtesy of okgenweb.org*

rocks push the water up to the surface. People have used artesian wells for clean drinking water for thousands of years (the water is not exposed to sunlight, which keeps the water at a cool temperature and the rocks act as a natural filter). One of the first known artesian wells was drilled in 1126 near France, and by the 17<sup>th</sup> century, artesian wells were being drilled throughout Europe. An area in Australia has so many flowing artesian wells it was named the Great Artesian Basin.

The Vendome Well is only one of thousands of artesian wells found worldwide. It is now under the U.S. National Park Service's care at the Chicksaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, and can be viewed at any time since the park is open 24 hours a day.

\*(1 foot ≈ .304 meters)

(1 gallon ≈ 3.78 liters)

**VWVA**  
*Virginia Water Well Association*

## Winter Conference & Trade Show

Holiday Inn Koger Center  
February 15-17, 2012  
Richmond, VA

Register now!

### Winter Conference & Trade Show Agenda

**Tuesday, Feb 14**

4:00 - 6:30 pm - Board of Directors Meeting  
5:00 - 9:00 pm - Trade Show Set-Up

**Wednesday, Feb 15**

7:30 am - Registration Open  
7:30 - 10:30 am - Trade Show Set-Up  
10:30 am - Trade Show Open  
11:00 am - 4:45 pm - Workshops  
4:45 - 8:30 pm - Reception & Auction

**Thursday, Feb 16**

7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Registration Open  
8:00 am - 1:30 pm - Trade Show Open  
8:30 am - 12:00 noon - Workshops  
12:00 noon - 1:30 pm - Lunch in the Exhibit Hall  
1:30 - Trade Show Ends  
1:30 - 4:15 pm - Workshops

**Friday, Feb 17**

8:00 - 9:15 am - Breakfast & Membership Meeting  
9:30 - 11:00 am - Workshop  
12 noon - Meeting Adjourns

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### Kuebelbeck cont'd from page 69.

the drilling contractor, who from past experience deemed thin formations incapable of producing the desired amount of water.

When subsequent test pumping revealed the opposite, I slowly began to convince even the most skeptical well drilling professional that thin water-bearing formations (in live-water flows) can indeed often yield sufficient quantities of good, quality water for the client.

*The statements and comments in this article are my own and are based on information and references believed to be true and factual. If you have any questions or comments, please forward them to me care of **WDR**.*

*Jim*

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