



West Virginia YOUTH Environmental Program



Fall 2015

WV Department of Environmental Protection (www.dep.wv.gov)

Youth Conference offers variety of activities

Participants in this year's Youth Environmental Conference will learn about venom and poison, be enlightened on careers available in the field of parks and recreation, and jump back in time to southern West Virginia's rich railroad history.

Did we mention the beautiful scenery which will be on display?

It all happens at Pipestem Resort State Park, where the 40th annual YEC runs from Oct. 9-11. Pipestem is located on the border between Mercer and Summers counties, 12 miles south of Hinton.

The conference is open to youth, ages 13-18, who are members of the state Youth Environmental Program. The deadline to register for the conference is 3



The 2014 Youth Environmental Conference at Snowshoe included a stop at Cass and a train ride to Bald Knob.

p.m., Sept. 21 and a limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Among the highlights at this

year's conference:

- Julie McQuade, park activities coordinator at Pipestem, will give a presentation on venom and poison on Friday evening.
- Susan Williams, director and professor of recreation and tourism at Concord University, will explore careers available with a parks and recreation degree on Saturday evening.
- Conference attendees will tour the Hinton Railroad Museum on Saturday, as well as make a stop at Sandstone Falls and the National Park Service Sandstone Visitor Center.

Other activities and workshops are included as well, and there will

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Message from the director . . .

Hello! I hope everybody had a wonderful and productive summer and you are enjoying a smooth transition back into another school year. Youth Day in May at North Bend State Park and our weeklong Junior Conservation Camp in June at Ripley's Cedar Lakes were, as always, great events. There's nothing like spending quality time with our YEP members and other youth from across the state. We became adept at dodging raindrops at Cedar Lakes, where wet weather dominated the week, but did not soak the spirits of our hearty campers and staff.

Of course, we're hoping for more sunshine than rain at the 40th annual Youth Environmental Conference, scheduled Oct. 9-11



Diana Haid
YEP Director

at Pipestem Resort State Park. I am extremely excited about this year's conference, which will include a trip to the beautiful Sandstone Falls and the Hinton Railroad Museum. For a registration form, visit the YEP page on the DEP's Website. We hope to see you there.

In November, the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia will host the 13th annual West Virginia Re-Fashion Show at the Town Center Mall in Charleston. Outfits must be made from recyclable or reused materials, so this is

the perfect opportunity for YEP groups to take on a unique and fun project. The Recycling Coalition also is sponsoring coloring and art contests, where students can win as much as \$150. I encourage all YEP members to visit the new and improved Recycling Coalition Website (www.wvrecycles.com) to learn more about the ReFashion Show and other contests.

Finally, I hope you have a terrific fall and you stay warm during the winter. Also, best of luck on all the projects you undertake. Don't hesitate to contact myself or your YEP district coordinator for assistance. Thank you for all you do!

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Contact Diana at: Diana.K.Haid@wv.gov or 304-926-0499, ext. 1114.



Find us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/depyouth

YEP News

WV Youth Environmental Program
601 57th St. S.E., Charleston WV 25304

News from the YEP districts

District 1

Brad Blaine
District Coordinator



AS the school year starts, YEP members often look for ways to incorporate the environment into their schools and lesson plans. In District 1, as well as throughout the state, there are lots of resources.

For those interested in doing projects revolving around litter control, solid waste management and recycling, consider your local solid waste authority. It's a great resource and can assist you in collection events, setting up recycling programs, tours of recycling centers and other education opportunities.

Additionally, the DEP offers cleanup programs such as Adopt-A-Highway, Adopt-A-Spot and Make-It-Shine.

Plus, don't forget the YEP gives out numerous cash awards for recycling projects when you send in your annual report in the spring! One of the most important things I pass along to our

YEP group leaders is that there is always a way to relate their members' interests to the environment.

For the science-minded members, the connection to the environment is obvious. For other interests, the connection may not be.

For example, if a member seems mainly interested in music, consider what Monongalia County students did by converting recyclables into different instruments that made unique sounds. The same goes for those mostly interested in the arts. There is the ReFashion Show, sponsored by the state Recycling Coalition, in which outfits are made from recyclable materials. Writers and public speakers can write essays, create PowerPoint presentations, and do outreach in their community, all with corresponding cash awards offered through the YEP.

District 3

Callie Sams
District Coordinator



DO you like to hunt or fish? Would you like to win a scholarship to Junior Conservation Camp or Conservation Camp? If yes, join Youth Environmental Program staff members at National Hunting and Fishing Days, Sept. 26-27, at Stonewall Resort. There will be activities, as well as food and vendors to keep your club or family busy all weekend.

Youth, ages 6-18, can participate in the Outdoor Youth Challenge (see photo) free of charge, either just for fun or as part of the competition. All children under 15 also enter the National Hunting and Fishing Days event for free, while there is a \$6 admission for adults 16 and over. Participants have the chance to win prizes throughout the weekend, including a lifetime hunting or fishing license. And the winners of the junior (11-14 years) and senior (15-18 years) age groups receive scholarships to



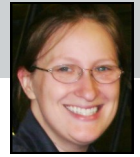
Junior and State Conservation camps respectively.

Once again, the YEP will participate in the Outdoor Youth Challenge, hosting the Leave No Trace station. Anytime we spend time outdoors, it's important to leave the environment the way we found it, particularly public land.

For more information, go to www.wvdnr.gov/NHFD/Youth.shtm or contact me at 304-924-6211 or Callie.C.Sams@wv.gov.

District 2

Harmony Dressler
District Coordinator



THIS spring and summer was a busy time for the Youth Environmental Program in District 2. So many groups participated in environmental projects and hosted environmental events that it's impossible to choose just one to write about.

Mineral County hosted the third annual Mineral County STEM Festival in March. The festival allows area youth to participate in hands-on learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. There were several environmental activities at the festival, including lessons in non-point source pollution, recycling, nonnative invasive species, and forestry.

In Grant County, Petersburg Elementary School held a Stream Study Field Day for its fifth-graders at Seneca Rocks.

The students rotated through four lessons throughout the day.



In one lesson, they learned about amphibians and hunted for them along the shore.

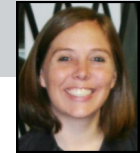
In another, the students learned about the chemistry of the water and used stream monitoring kits to test the water.

They also learned about nonnative invasive species and used GPS units to mark their locations.

Finally, the students participated in a snorkeling stream study (photo above), by using snorkeling equipment to study the bottom of Whites Run.

District 4

Sara Prior
District Coordinator



THE Friends of the Earth Club at Wyoming East High School has been busy participating in environmentally friendly activities. The group continues to educate its peers about sustainability and making their school more energy efficient.

The organization participated in the 2014 Re-Fashion Show, hosted by the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia, by recycling potato chip bags into a silver flapper-style dress. Emily Cook (in photo) modeled the dress during the event in Charleston. Also, under the guidance of teacher Brittany Bauer, approximately eight students participated in the regional science bowl and qualified for the state science bowl.

Their dedication to a healthy environment has helped change the use of the school's outdoor courtyard by redesigning the layout to include a vegetable garden. The Friends of the Earth Club



will be installing raised beds and, hopefully, a greenhouse this fall.

The club has inspired teachers to expand the school's curriculum by including lessons on plants, how to grow seedlings, and how to make simple structures that will help the seedlings grow.

Another great project the club participated in was a visit to Costa Rica in June to learn about the ecosystem and wildlife found there. Finally, the club has worked with the school to install a number of roof solar panels.

District 5

Tom Aluise
District Coordinator



BOY Scout Troop 99 calls Reynolds Memorial United Methodist Church in Mar-met home. But these young men are anything but homebodies.

Troop 99 is a small group of fewer than 10 scouts. But they think big.

In just a short time since joining the Youth Environmental Program, Troop 99 has adopted a stretch of highway in Eastern Kanawha County as part of the state Adopt-A-Highway program; cleaned and planted trees at local parks; initiated a Christmas Tree recycling program for its town and a plastic bottle recycling drive for its church; toured a surface coal mine; toured a solid waste landfill; and visited the local waste water treatment plant.

Assistant Scout Master Kim Mason said the group hopes to next tour the John Amos Power Plant.

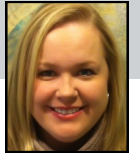
As if these boys needed more energy!

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Congratulations to Adrianna McCoy, of the Mountaineers 4-H Club in Mason County. Adrianna (pictured below with DEP Communications Chief Kelley Gillenwater) was the recipient of the prestigious \$10,000 Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship, presented to an active YEP member with exemplary conduct throughout his/her school year. Adrianna is a recent graduate of Point Pleasant High School and plans to study environmental science at Marshall University.



District 6

Nedia Cyran
District Coordinator



JOHN Fichtner, instructor of forestry and grounds maintenance at Roane-Jackson Technical Center, has been an asset to me and the Youth Environmental Program. He has taken the time to educate me and many others about the many plants native to West Virginia.

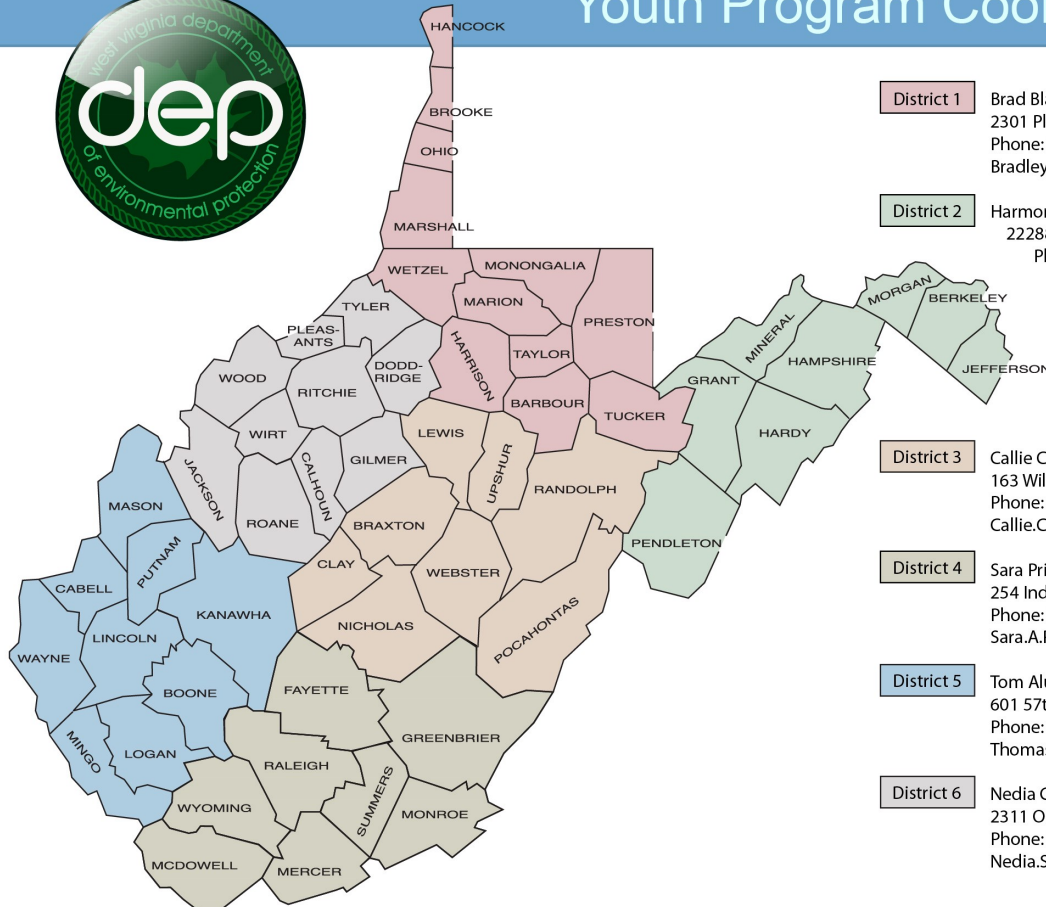
We have walked the beautiful nature trail located just behind the Technical Center to get a hands-on look at the difference between native species plants and invasive species plants. The name of the nature trail is "Touch the Earth Nature Trail" and it is open to the public and offers six different hiking trails.

John also enjoys sharing the trail with youth within the community. He invited the elementary students from Jackson County schools in June to take a nature hike and explore the many things the trail offers. He had a total of 300 students over a three-day period.



We hiked and learned about different birds, insects, and plants. The teachers commented on how valuable the trail is to their community and how wonderful it is to incorporate it into their curriculum. John (pictured above) has so many wonderful stories about the birds and plants, which also helped the kids better understand and likely remember what they learned.

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Spotlight On.



Jersey Mountain Workers 4-H Club

Location: Hampshire County

Number of members: 11

Highlights: In the last year, the Jersey Mountain Workers participated in a number of environmental activities. Year round, the club recycles, collects box tops for local schools, and collects plastic lids and used postage stamps for local churches. This year, the club did a roadside litter pick up and assisted with a cleanup in a local cemetery. In the coming year, the club plans to complete similar projects.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 5 — Great Kanawha River Cleanup.

Sept. 26 — Adopt-A-Highway Fall Statewide Cleanup.

Sept. 26-27 — National Hunting and Fishing Days, Stonewall Jackson Resort.

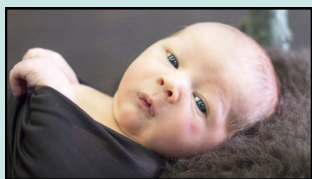
Oct. 9-11 — Youth Environmental Conference, Pipestem Resort State Park.

Oct. 25-27 — West Virginia Educational Conference on Little Control and Solid Waste Management, Canaan Resort.

Nov. 15 — West Virginia Recycles Day.

Nov. 21 — Re-Fashion Show, Charleston Town Center.

Nov. 30 — Recycling Coalition Youth Contest entries due.



Welcome aboard!

The Youth Environmental Program welcomed a new member to its family on July 29.

Eli Benjamin Prior was born at 9:10 a.m. and weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces. He was 21 inches long. Eli's proud momma is YEP District 4 Coordinator Sara Prior.

Sara reports that Eli is doing well and is getting plenty of attention from big sister, Ava, and dad, Benny.

Fairmont NASA Resource Center a great learning tool

For those interested in doing environmental projects as part of Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), we're fortunate to have the NASA IV & V Resource Center in Fairmont. NASA offers many hands-on and engaging opportunities at no cost.

Currently, there are a variety of hands-on STEM-based workshops being offered for those in grades 5-8. They include Space Weather, Mission to Mars, Planetary Geology, Model Rocketry and others.

Any youth group, not just schools, can participate. For more information, look online at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/ivv/education/educators.html>.



CONFERENCE

Continued from Page 1

be time for games, swimming, dancing, a movie, idea swaps among clubs and reports on community projects that clubs have completed or are currently involved in.

For conference enrollment forms, go to the Youth Environmental Program section on the DEP Website (www.dep.wv.gov).

For more information, contact Youth Environmental Program Director Diana Haid at 304-926-0499, ext. 1114 or email: Diana.K.Haid@wv.gov. Remember, Sept. 21 is the deadline to register!