



West Virginia YOUTH Environmental Program



Fall 2018

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

Message from the director ...

It has been one year since I gratefully accepted the position of Director of the Youth Environmental Program. I never knew a profession could be so rewarding and exciting. It is refreshing to work with the most amazing people of this wonderful state.

I mentioned in the spring newsletter that the YEP's District 3 coordinator position was vacant. For those who attended Youth Environmental Day in May at North Bend State Park, you had the pleasure of meeting Beth Henry-Vance,



Annette Hoskins
YEP Director

our new District 3 coordinator. Beth took over the position on May 29.

Speaking of Youth Environmental Day, we streamlined the award presentation at this year's ceremony and I hope those in attendance felt it was efficient and satisfying. I am always open for suggestions, please call or email me.

Junior Conservation Camp, held in June at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, was a success. Although we had a rain-filled week, we had a great group of youth and leaders who worked together to make it a fun and

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The West Virginia State Museum was renovated in 2009 and is a must-see for any West Virginian.

Capital City-bound Museum stop, salt works part of YEC

You might say we're shaking things up this year at the Youth Environmental Conference.

A visit to J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works is among the highlights of the 2018 YEC, set for Oct. 12-14 at the Charleston Marriott.

Other stops on the Saturday tour are planned for West Virginia Cashin Recyclables in Nitro, the West Virginia State Museum and the State Capitol building.

The conference gets underway at 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12 with environmental activities and a youth group project idea



Workers harvest salt at J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works in Malden.

swap.

On Saturday, conference attendees will be bused to the fascinating J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works, located in Malden, a

small town in eastern Kanawha County that sits along the Kanawha River. William Dickinson, a

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YEP News

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

News from the YEP districts

District 1

Shanti Amos
District Coordinator



THE Midway Getters 4-H Club, named for its location between Reedsville and Mason-town, was founded over 50 years ago. Donna Montgomery, the group's current leader, and her husband, Danny Montgomery, have been members of the club for over 20 years. The Montgomery family was recently recognized by the DEP at two of our annual events: The YEP's Youth Environmental Day and Adopt-A-Highway's Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

At the annual Youth Environmental Day, the Midway Getters received the Governor's \$500 Beautification Award. The award is given to a group that completes the most outstanding job of community litter prevention, clean-up and beautification. It is not hard to see why the Getters won. The club recycled 1,957 pounds of aluminum cans, 3,429 pounds of cardboard, 12,417 pounds of

paper, and 66,471 plastic shopping bags this past year.

The recycling of 1,957 pounds of aluminum cans enabled the club to purchase seedlings and flowers from the Youth Conservation Program. They use those flowers in the Town of Mason-town flowerbed, which they maintain throughout the year. They also deliver 1,000 tree seedlings to students, teachers and personnel at West Preston Elementary to celebrate Arbor Day.

Danny Montgomery received the following awards at the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic hosted by the Adopt-A-Highway Program: Most Active Group in One Year; Most Litter Collected in One Year; and Most Litter Collected-Lifetime Achievement. Congratulations to the Montgomery family and the Midway Getters 4-H Club.

District 3

Beth Henry-Vance
District Coordinator



HELLO! My name is Beth Henry-Vance, and I was hired earlier this year to serve as the Youth Environmental Program coordinator for District 3.

I work in the Department of Environmental Protection's Philippi office, and my district includes Barbour, Braxton, Clay, Lewis, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster counties. It's wonderful to see how many local clubs, organizations, and schools are already active with recycling projects, litter cleanups, and environmental education programs.

I live in the Elkins area with my husband, Gary, and two children. Our 5-year-old daughter, Ruby, started kindergarten this fall, and our son, Cole, is 2 years old. They keep us busy, along with assorted dogs, cats, chickens, and sheep.

Originally from Wisconsin, I

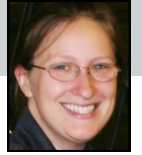
moved to West Virginia with my family when I was 8 years old. I grew up in Pocahontas County, and was active in 4-H, Girl Scouts, church activities, and sports. I also went hiking and camping in the Monongahela National Forest a lot with family and friends, and I still enjoy spending time outdoors.

I worked as a journalist in the newspaper industry in Elkins and Martinsburg for about 15 years, and I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communications from Marshall University. As a reporter and editor, I always enjoyed meeting new people of all ages and helping to share their unique stories.

In my new role, I am very excited about reaching out to people throughout West Virginia as we work to protect the many resources in our beautiful state!

District 2

Harmony Dressler
District Coordinator



THE Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) and the West Virginia Youth Environmental Program hosted the Watershed Connections Model Building Teacher Workshop in Keyser on July 10-11.

The workshop was made available by a grant received by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. The event reached 12 educators at six schools, with the potential to reach up to 900 students in the coming school year.

The educators spent two days building and learning about the watershed models and brainstorming about ways to incorporate the models into their curriculum.

The Watershed Connections model can be used by youth (and adults!) to explore the relationships between watersheds, land use, and water quality. The model and lessons are used to investigate how land use during different time periods has affected waterways and



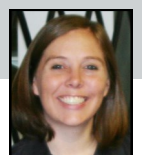
how Best Management Practices can be used to reduce pollution.

The YEP has models available for presentations with youth groups. If you're interested in a presentation utilizing the Watershed Connections models or if you'd like to use the models in your own presentation, please contact your YEP district coordinator.

You can learn more about the models and their presentation possibilities at www.potomacriver.org/resources/educator-resources/watershed-connections/.

District 4

Sara Prior
District Coordinator



IF your group is located near Montgomery, WV, and you are searching for environmental stewardship activities and projects, you might want to consider a visit to the Morris Creek Watershed Association (MCWA) office. The MCWA has earned multiple awards for its efforts, including West Virginia Watershed of the Year.

Morris Creek, located on the western border of Montgomery, where Fayette and Kanawha counties meet, is approximately five miles long and flows into the Kanawha River. MCWA, a non-profit community-based organization, has been in operation since the early 2000's, cleaning up the creek from acid mine drainage, sedimentation and erosion problems, and now local school children raise trout fingerlings in their classrooms and stock the waters annually. Groups of all ages visit Morris Creek. University environmental

studies students from other states come to study the watershed's model conservation projects in the mostly undeveloped seven and a half acres of beautifully forested hillsides. Every year, MCWA partners with the DEP's Project WET to host a water festival for fourth and fifth graders. The water festival allows students to learn about the water cycle, aquatic life, and water conservation. The students also enjoy a warm lunch and a hayride tour.

To schedule a time to take a free walk-through, field trip or hayride tour or develop a volunteer project, contact Beach Vickers, watershed resource specialist, at P.O. Box 927, Montgomery, WV 25136, 304-442-4581 (office) or beachtex@msn.com. You can also find more information at morriscreekwatershed.org or follow on Facebook.

District 5

Tom Aluise
District Coordinator



The goal of most educators is to make learning fun for their students.

That concept is certainly evident during water festival season in the Charleston-Huntington area of West Virginia.

Sponsored by the DEP's Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) program, the YEP and other agencies, water festivals offer grade school students interactive learning opportunities in water-related topics.

Educational activities that are both innovative and enjoyable for the students make water festivals popular field trip choices for schools and teachers.

A typical water festival is conducted outdoors and attracts 200 to 300 fourth- and fifth-graders from a handful of elementary schools in the area.

The students rotate in groups to various stations throughout the day and learn about topics such as water conservation, the water cycle, stream ecology, acid rain,



storm water management, stream health, watersheds and much more. Most stations have a fun activity that is related to the topic and engages the students both mentally

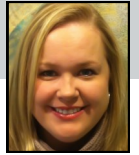
and physically.

The Charleston Water Festival was conducted Sept. 6 on the Capitol grounds and close to 200 grade-schoolers attended. Festivals also are scheduled Sept. 18 at Morris Creek in Fayette County; Sept. 20 at Marshall University; and Sept. 27 in St. Albans.

To learn more about water festivals, contact Project WET Coordinator Tomi Bergstrom at: Tomi.M.Bergstrom@wv.gov.

District 6

Nedia Cyran
District Coordinator



STUDENTS at Pleasant Hill Elementary in Grantsville are doing an excellent job recycling!

For many years, parents and students have collected a wide variety of materials for recycling. The items include plastics No. 1 and No. 2, paper, and cardboard.

The recyclables are transported by volunteers to the Cabot Recycling Center. Due to budget cuts, the recycling center was no longer able to pick up the materials, but that did not stop the school from collecting, sorting, transporting, and recycling.

And people noticed.

Pleasant Hill recently was honored by the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia as a "2018 Recycling Champion."

The school, which was nominated for the award by the Calhoun County Solid Waste Authority, was honored this spring during a ceremony at the school (see photo).

The Recycling Coalition recog-

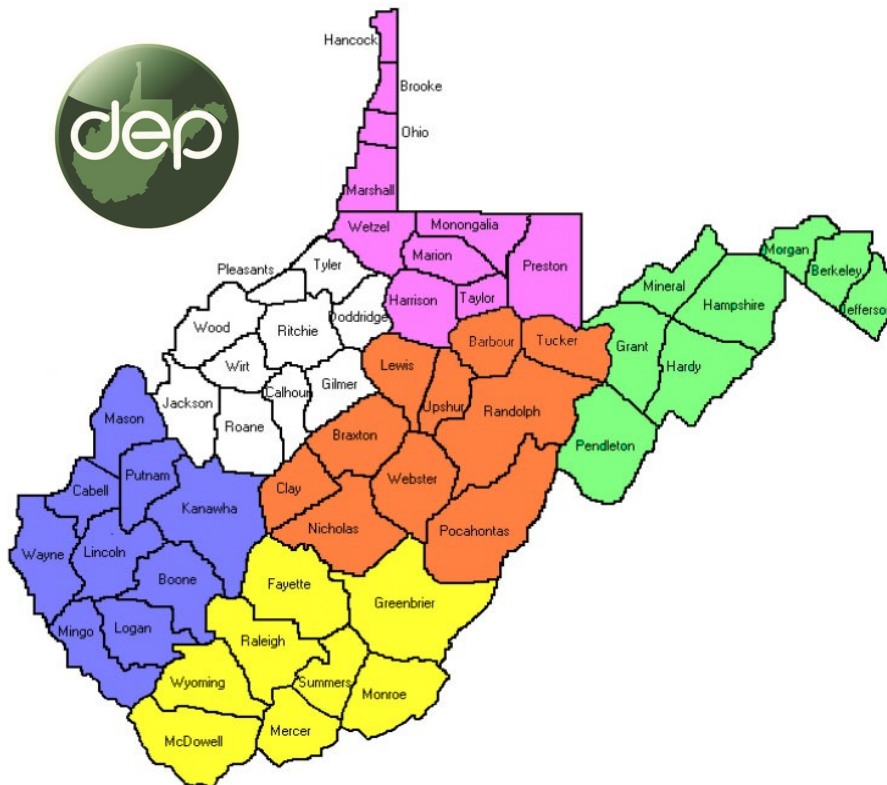


nizes "Recycling Champions" who reach beyond their normal responsibilities to contribute time and service to support the recycling industry in the state.

The Recycling Coalition is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to promote the effective and sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling of materials otherwise destined for disposal.

Pleasant Hill Elementary is doing a fantastic job teaching its students the importance of recycling. The school makes recycling a priority. Job well done!!

Youth Program Coordinators



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Spotlight On.



Boys and Girls Club of Marion Co.

Location: Marion County

Number of members: 108

The Boys and Girls Club of Marion County was recently recognized by the Recycling Coalition of WV, along with the Solid Waste Management Board and all 50 solid waste authorities, as being a Recycling Champion. Since 2015 it has collected 61 tons of paper from the club's three locations in Marion County. All collected paper is sent to Resolute Forest Products paper mill in Fairmont, where it is used to make recycled bleached kraft pulp (RBK).

Calendar of Events

Sept. 22-23 — National Hunting and Fishing Days, Stonewall Jackson Resort.

Sept. 29 — Adopt-A-Highway Fall Statewide Cleanup.

Oct. 1 — Roadsides In Bloom Calendar contest deadline.

Oct. 12-14 — Youth Environmental Conference, Charleston Marriott.

Oct. 28-30 — West Virginia Educational Conference on Little Control and Solid Waste Management, Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park.

Nov. 15 — West Virginia Recycles Day.

Nov. 17 — West Virginia Recycling Coalition Re-Fashion Show, Charleston Town Center Mall.

Nov. 30 — West Virginia Recycling Coalition Youth Contest entries due.

CAPITAL

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native Virginian, began making salt on the property in 1817. Soon, the town of Malden became known as “the salt making capital of the east.”

Today, two seventh generation descendants of William Dickinson are still producing salt on the property using brine from just one well. The brine is evaporated in special sun-houses, leaving behind all-natural salt crystals. The small batch salt is then hand-harvested and sold as a farm-to-table finishing salt for any type of dish. Conference goers will have an opportunity to taste a sampling of the Dickinson salt in the company's gift shop.

History will be on display as well at the State Museum and the State Capitol

building. The State Museum offers seemingly endless artifacts that detail the history of West Virginia and is a must-see for all West Virginians.

West Virginia Cashin' Recyclables has been in operation since 1988 and recently began an innovative copper recovery system.

Saturday evening's schedule includes reports from groups about the day's tours, a speaker on environmental careers and other activities such as board games and a movie.

“I am very excited about this year's conference,” YEP Director Annette Hoskins said. “We feel like we have put together a lineup of interesting, fun and educational tours.”

The deadline to register for the conference is Sept. 21. For information, visit www.dep.wv.gov. Click on Youth Environmental Program.

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safe week for all involved.

The Youth Environmental Conference, scheduled for Oct. 12-14 at the Charleston Marriott Town Center, is open to youth, ages 13-18. In the past, only youth enrolled in the YEP were permitted to attend the Youth Conference. This year, we decided to open the event to any West Virginia youth in the appropriate age range. We're hoping more state teen-agers will take advantage of this educational and fun event.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in 2019. Mark your calendars now for Youth Environmental Day, May 17-19, 2019 at North Bend State Park.

As always, the Youth Environmental Program enjoys developing our community interactions. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact me at:

Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov or 304-926-0499 ext. 1659.