



West Virginia YOUTH Environmental Program



Fall 2019

WV Department of Environmental Protection

Fun-filled YEC set for Hawk's Nest

The 44th annual edition of the Youth Environmental Conference is headed to the mountains.

From Sept. 27-29, conference participants will have the opportunity to enjoy one of West Virginia's most beautiful regions — the New River Gorge. This year's conference host, Hawk's Nest State Park, offers stunning views of the gorge and the scenic New River which snakes its way through the picturesque hills.

On the list of Saturday tour

sites for the conference is the Canyon Rim Visitor Center, which offers its own splendid view of the world-famous New River Gorge Bridge near Fayetteville. The 3,030-foot long steel arch bridge's roadway is 876 feet above the New River.

Later Saturday, conference goers will bus to Adventures on the Gorge to experience the TimberTrek Adventure Park. With more than 60 platforms,

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Message from the director . . . remember our new deadline

THE days are getting shorter, the air is becoming cooler and the trees are taking on their autumn hue. That means the annual Youth Environmental Conference is just around the corner.

But before I talk about the conference, I want to switch gears to the spring of 2020. We have moved the deadline from April 15 to March 15 for YEP members to submit program reports, posters, scholarship applications, Hall of Fame nominations and essays. The earlier deadline will give us more time to judge entries and contact winners prior to Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park in May. So, remember, the new reporting period is March 16 from the previous year to March 15 of the current year.

The 2019 Youth Environmental Conference, covering ages 13-18, is set for Sept. 27-29 at beautiful Hawk's Nest State Park in Fayette County. We have an impressive lineup of speakers scheduled, as well as some fun and educational field trips. One of the highlights of the weekend



Annette Hoskins
YEP Director

will be a visit to Adventures on the Gorge, where conference participants can test their skills on the resort's TimberTrek Course. Adults, don't forget to fill out an electronic waiver for anyone under 18 who's attending the conference and plans to try the TimberTrek.

In the bad news/good news department, District 2 Coordinator Harmony Dressler left her full-time position with the Youth Environmental Program in June. That's the bad news. Harmony is well-respected, knowledgeable in a wide variety of topics and is a great teacher.

The good news? Harmony has decided to stay with the Youth Program on a part-time basis until her replacement is

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YEP News

WV Youth Environmental Program
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News from the YEP districts

District 1

Shanti Amos
District Coordinator



EVERGREEN Packaging believes, “Consumers care about sustainability and sustainable packaging. They care about packaging’s environmental impact, its health impact, and what it tells them about your brand.” They have created three programs to help educate consumers and students.

The first program is called, “Choose Cartons.” The goal of this program is to get consumers to stop and think about how the food they purchase is packaged. There are several benefits to purchasing milk, juice and other items in carton containers. This program helps to educate buyers on those benefits.

The second program is called, “Project Carton.” This program is a packaging design competition for students attending the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in NYC.

The third program is called



“Carton 2 Garden.” The goal of this program is to encourage schools to upcycle milk cartons to create school gardens.

I was excited to learn that Mylan Park Elementary in Morgantown competed against schools from around the country and was selected as a 2019 winner. The school cleaned, cut and glued 730 milk cartons to create a vertical garden (above). They also incorporated a system to capture rain water to water their plants. Mylan Park is on a mission to “turn their school green.”

District 3

Beth Henry-Vance
District Coordinator



YOUNGSTERS in Barbour and Tucker counties have been able to learn about bees and see them up close, thanks to members of the Barbour County Beekeepers Association.

Students have visited a hive display at the Barbour County Fair for more than 15 years as part of an education day for third-graders, said Joyce Frey, master beekeeper with the BCBA. Frey noted the association has set up an educational booth at the Tucker County Fair as well for the past two years. The group also has given presentations inside local classrooms.

The double-sided display features a hive with live bees, similar to an ant farm. This allows a clear view of all the bees working inside, including the queen bee. Students learn facts about the life cycle of bees, how honey is made, safety information related to stings, and how



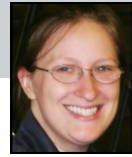
bees are a unique part of nature. Students also have an opportunity to ask lots of questions.

Frey said she enjoys helping to spread awareness of beekeeping, to students as well as people of all ages.

“The more we get the word out, the better,” she said, encouraging youth groups throughout the state to contact their local beekeepers association to learn more about bees, or discover other pollinators that play a crucial role in our environment.

District 2

Harmony Dressler



AS many of you already know, I resigned from my position as the full time Youth Environmental Program (YEP) District 2 coordinator at the end of June.

Working with the YEP over the last five years has been an experience that I will always treasure. I was motivated, not only by the amazing team that I got to be a part of, but by the enthusiasm and actions of the youth of our state.

The young people I had the privilege to meet and work with are some of the most innovative and hardworking people I’ve ever met.

I feel confident they will continue to make our state shine through the many environmental projects they tackle each year.

Thankfully, the YEP is allowing me to return to the team on a part-time basis until a full time coordinator can be hired for District 2.

Starting September 16, I will be working part time in District 2 to

“Thankfully, the YEP is allowing me to return to the team.”

continue to promote the YEP and environmental stewardship.

I will be available in the evenings and on weekends for any events in the eastern panhandle section of West Virginia.

I’m excited to reestablish connections with everyone and I hope I can help make the transition easier for the new coordinator once they are selected. I’m so grateful I will have the opportunity to continue to work with this program!

Beginning September 16, you should be able to reach me again at Harmony.F.Dressler@wv.gov.

I look forward to hearing from you!

District 4

Sara Prior
District Coordinator



I was fortunate to take a tour of the E. Paul Barley Regional Recycling Center in Beckley last month.

The Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority created this facility with education in mind. The facility hosts folks from all over West Virginia and saw approximately 7,000 students last year.

The first part of the tour starts upstairs where there is a wall of recyclable materials on display. The room also showcases amazing upcycling projects: chairs made from cardboard and wood, a Christmas tree display created from aluminum cans, and carpet that is made from polyester that was spun from recycled water bottles.

In this room, you also learn about the three R’s — reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Next, you board a colorful school bus.

During this part of the trip,

you drive through the landfill and learn how it is made, how it works, and visit the Last Chance Mercantile store.

The store lives up to the phrase, “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

Once back at the recycling facility, the group gathers into a huge room, with theatre style seating and a wall of windows that overlook the recycling area. Here, you can watch workers sort through the items to be recycled. It’s very interesting and the students love it.

Also, did I mention that you get PIZZA?!

Every tour group is treated to lunch, thanks to the Corporate Green Team Sponsors.

To plan a trip to the recycling center, visit raleigh-swa.org. You can also contact the center’s Tonya Patton or Sherrie Hunter at 304-255-9335.

District 5

Tom Aluise
District Coordinator



THIS isn't your typical fashion show runway.

How many New York City models take the stage decked out in toilet paper rolls, old soda cans and discarded newspapers?

Those are just some of the unusual materials used in outfits on display during the annual West Virginia Re-Fashion Show, sponsored by the Recycling Coalition of West Virginia.

This year's show — the 17th annual — is scheduled for Nov. 23 at the Charleston Town Center Mall and there is plenty of time to join the fun.

The rules are simple: models' outfits must be made from recyclable or reused items and contestants will be asked to name the materials used in their outfit.

Participants can enter one of four themed categories: Cosplay Comic Com Challenge; Charleston Town Center Challenge; Newspaper Challenge; and General Theme. One winner will be chosen from each category.



Also, models will be divided into one of two age groups — 13 and under; and 14 and over — and three winners will be selected in each age group. Prizes range from \$50 to \$150.

Same-day registration for the 1 p.m. show begins at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Recycling Coalition Chairman Paul Hayes at 304-926-0499, ext. 1673.

District 6

Nedia Cyran
District Coordinator



THIS spring and summer was a busy season in District 6. Many of our clubs have been busy participating in litter clean ups, beautification projects, and recycling.

The Woodchucks 4-H Club is located in Waverly, Wood County. The club has done a phenomenal job helping to keep West Virginia beautiful.

The Woodchucks participate in several programs, including the Adopt-A-Highway Program (photo) sponsored by the state DEP.

Three times a year, they pick up countless bags of garbage on Isaac Fork Road. They also keep their community beautiful by planting flowers and maintaining the flower beds at the local church where they conduct their monthly meetings.

One of the new programs that the club started in 2018-19 was cleaning up a mile-long stretch of the stream along Laurel Creek Road. This helps to keep the area

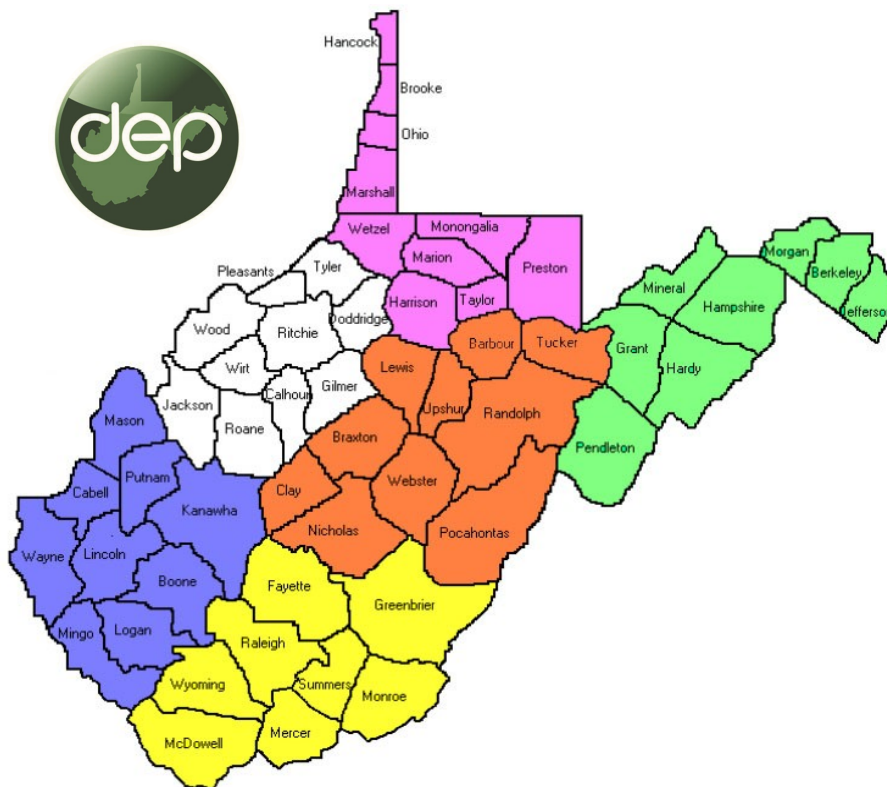


clean and beautiful, but it also does wonders for the aquatic life that lives within the stream.

Lastly, the Woodchucks remember the elderly who live in their community, especially around the holidays.

Each year they go to local nursing homes and sing to the residents. They also bring the residents goodie boxes to help lift their spirits.

Youth Program Coordinators



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District 6

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Spotlight On.



Cub Scout Pack 43

Location: Jackson County

Number of members: 40

In the last year, Cub Scout Pack 43 participated in several environmental activities. The club has sponsored the Ohio River Sweep for the past five years and collects trash on the banks of the Ohio River, Turkey Fork Lake, and Mill Creek. Pack 43 also hosts a Team Up 2 Clean Up event quarterly to clean up litter throughout the town of Ravenswood. Last year alone, the club planted 200 trees in Jackson County.

YEC

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bridges, ziplines and other obstacles spread over four acres of woodlands, the TimberTrek will provide an especially exciting twist to the day.

Other highlights of the conference include speakers from Concord University and the state Department of Environmental Protection. On Friday evening during an idea swap, each youth group represented is invited to give a three-minute report on its community environmental projects.

For more information about the conference, contact Annette Hoskins at 304-926-0499, ext. 1659.

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found and trained. So, don't say good-bye to Harmony quite yet. We're excited she's back on board and will continue to work with the outstanding youth groups in the state's eastern panhandle.

Finally, in our ongoing effort to reduce the amount of paper we use and subsequently the amount of waste we produce, don't be surprised if future mailings from the Youth Environmental Program contain fewer forms and less information.

Instead, you'll be provided instructions on how to electronically access those forms and information.

Who knows, down the road we may do away with mailings entirely.

As always, please call or email me with questions, comments or concerns at 304-926-0499, ext. 1659 or Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov.

Hope to see you soon!

Calendar of Events

September 21-22 — National Hunting and Fishing Days, Stonewall Jackson Resort.

September 27-29 — Youth Environmental Conference, Hawks Nest State Park.

September 28 — Adopt-A-Highway Fall Statewide Cleanup.

October 1 — Roadsides in Bloom Calendar entry deadline.

October 20-22 — REAP/Association of West Virginia Solid Waste Authorities Conference, Canaan Resort.

November 15 — West Virginia Recycles Day.

November 23 — Re-Fashion Show, Charleston Town Center Mall.

November 30 — WV Recycling Coalition Youth Contest deadline.

** For more information about Make It Shine and Adopt-A-Highway events, call: 1-800-322-5530.*

Youth Program part of DNR outdoor event

If you plan to attend West Virginia's celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days at Stonewall Resort State Park, make sure you stop by the Youth Environmental Program's activity as part of the Outdoor Youth Challenge.

Any youth between the ages of 6 and 18 can sign up for the Youth Challenge, which includes a multitude of activities, displays and hands-on learning opportunities related to the outdoors and the environment. The YEP's activity deals with the life of a plastic bottle and is set up like a life-size board game.

Sponsored by the Division of Natural Resources, Hunting and Fishing Days is scheduled Sept. 21-22. The Youth Challenge runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and participants in the Challenge become eligible to win a scholarship to either state Junior or Senior Conservation camps.