

# Responding in time of need

## DEP offices step up to help with flood relief

By Tom Aluise

Weather-related emergencies, such as those recently experienced in flood-impacted Logan, Marion and Lincoln counties, are cause for Mike Dorsey to rally his troops.



**Dorsey**

Dorsey, chief of the Department of Environmental Protection's Homeland Security and Emergency Response Unit, is tasked with organizing a response not only from his own staff, but from personnel throughout the DEP.

"Anytime there is any kind of emergency which requires coordination within the agency or coordination with other state or federal agencies, it's my job to make that happen," Dorsey said.

Sound difficult?

It's not, at least where the DEP



Debris from the recent flooding in Logan County is collected at a local site awaiting proper disposal. Several different DEP offices assisted in the Logan County cleanup.

is concerned, Dorsey said.

That's because Dorsey routinely gets a high level of cooperation and coordination anytime he calls on the DEP's various offices for help in dealing

with emergencies.

The DEP's response to recent flooding in the state's southern coalfields, as well as in the north,

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## It's that time of year



Volunteers from the Mountaineers 4-H Club in Mason County spent part of a beautiful spring day tidying up near the Flat Rock Volunteer Fire Department as part of the Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup during the first two weeks of April. Make It Shine is jointly sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and Division of Highways and annually attracts thousands of volunteers from across the state.

## 'Environment Matters' new on Library Network

The second episode of the Department of Environmental Protection's new television show, "Environment Matters," is now on the Library Channel across the state.

It can also be viewed on YouTube by following these links:

- [Environment Matters Part 1](#)
- [Environment Matters Part 2](#)
- [Environment Matters Part 3](#)
- [Environment Matters Part 4](#)

Among the topics covered in the latest episode are the DEP's Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup.

"Environment Matters" airs on the Library Network on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. It also airs on Thursdays at 3:30 a.m. and on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

# Let's keep making state shine

The arrival of warmer temperatures and fresh blossoms indicate spring is finally here!

For many of us, it's also a time to tidy up, get organized, and take on the household projects we put off during the winter months.

Spring cleaning, as it's often referred, extends far beyond our homes and into our communities as civic groups throughout the state participate in the West Virginia Make it Shine Program, sponsored in part by the state Department of Environmental Protection's REAP program.

These volunteer groups pick up litter, clean along stream banks, and plant trees and flowers.

Every year, community groups, businesses, local governments and



Message from Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin

volunteer groups from across our state roll up their sleeves to organize cleanup efforts in their counties.

Volunteers for the Make It Shine Program have cleaned up thousands of miles of state roads and stream banks over the years and have collected thousands of tons of litter.

In addition, they have conducted recycling efforts and planted trees and flowers in their communities.

***I want to offer my sincere thanks to the many volunteers who offer their time each year to ensure the preservation of our state's natural beauty.***

I believe this program is important to our state for a number of reasons. West Virginia is known for its natural beauty. As we continue our efforts to attract new jobs to our state, it is important to show interested business leaders West Virginians are good stewards of the environment. When we demonstrate responsibility in keeping our state clean, we show the world we are responsible, hard-working and proud of our home.

Just as important, is our ever-expanding tourism industry. With four distinct and unique seasons, West Virginia welcomes

visitors year round. Whether it's to ski our majestic mountain slopes, raft on our abundant waterways, or hike our wooded trails, visitors often return to experience the natural beauty of our state.

The West Virginia Make It Shine Program is a wonderful opportunity for West Virginians to become involved in their communities and I want to offer my sincere thanks to the many volunteers who offer their time each year to ensure the preservation of our state's natural beauty.

Together, we can make the Mountain State shine!

## Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup set for April 28

It's not too late to register for the Saturday, April 28 Adopt-A-Highway spring statewide cleanup.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and the state Division of Highways, the Adopt-A-Highway Program is administered by the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP).

Its goals include improving the quality of our environment by encouraging public involvement in the elimination of highway litter.

Individuals, families, churches, businesses, schools, civic organizations, government agencies and communities can register to pick up trash on almost any state-maintained road, back

road or main route. Private roads and interstate highways cannot be adopted.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program provides garbage bags, work gloves and safety vests to volunteers. The state also takes care of disposing of collected trash. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old to participate.

More than 5,000 volunteers turned out for last year's Adopt-A-Highway fall cleanup and cleared over 800 miles of West Virginia roadways.

Since the program's inception in 1988, volunteers have cleaned up more than 87,000 miles of state highways and roads.

To register, call 1-800-322-5530 or send an email to: [dep.aah@wv.gov](mailto:dep.aah@wv.gov). If you reach the REAP voicemail, please leave your ID, phone number, group name, date of cleanup, number of participants and the county of your road.



**Earl Ray Tomblin**  
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Cabinet Secretary

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was no different. And, Dorsey believes it's indicative of how far the agency has come.

"We started out as an agency that was made up of essentially, or what we all thought, was unrelated parts," he said.

"That's changed. And that's good for the agency and good for the public.

"People know one another and people have gotten used to working with one another. Now, everyone is out there trying to do the right thing."

During the recent flooding, "doing the right thing" included the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Logan office making sure impoundments were inspected in a timely manner; the Division of Water and Waste Management's Environmental Enforcement staff in both the north and south assisting in identifying temporary areas to store debris, as well as educating citizens on proper waste disposal; DWWM staff coordinating efforts with landfills to accept more waste than usual; REAP staff dealing with the heavy load of appliances washed away by high water; and Dorsey's own staff working long hours.

"When you're in an emergency situation like this, while it might not be the same as a truck burning on the side of the road, it's still an emergency, particularly to the people involved," Dorsey said.

"The work needs to get done. It just has to. And it has become so much easier getting that stuff done."

## Open letter to DEP staff

Recently, our state experienced a string of weather events that resulted in a lot of property damage for the people living where these events occurred. In response to the floods and tornadoes, many of the DEP's staff members stepped up with quick and professional responses.

After the floods in the Logan area, staff from the Division of Mining and Reclamation immediately went into action to inspect impoundments and give reports to Homeland Security before nightfall. The Logan staff also helped find locations to place debris to assist with the cleanup efforts.



**Huffman**

The Division of Water and Waste Management was quick to get access to landfills and made sure the Department of Health and Human Services was on board with what was happening in the field. In addition, staff from the Office of Oil and Gas responded to concerns in the Logan area.

The Environmental Enforcement staff in Marion County was more than helpful during the flooding there and responded quickly when it was needed in Logan County.

The REAP staff was always available to help dispose of appliances and tires, even though this time of year is its busiest season for cleanups.

And, of course, the Homeland Security and Emergency Response team worked all hours of the day and night until the job was done.

Most of those involved would say they were just doing their jobs. But it's the attitude of helpfulness and willingness to do whatever is necessary to help their fellow West Virginians that make their efforts stand out.

I am very proud of all those who helped, regardless of their role. It is that spirit of cooperation that makes this agency stand out among state agencies.

Please accept my heartfelt thank you for your service to your state and your neighbors.

Randy Huffman  
Cabinet Secretary

## In Memory

Timothy Joseph Papula, 55, died on Monday, April 9 at Ruby Memorial Hospital. Tim worked for the Office of



Abandoned Mine Lands out of the Philippi office. He had 10 years of service with the DEP. Tim was raised in Benwood and lived in Kingwood. He is survived by his loyal canine companion, Ja-Bo; a brother and two

sisters. Tim was an avid sportsman and a member of the NRA. He was known for his many random acts of kindness to those he met.

A celebration of Tim's life is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at the Fireman's Hall on Main and 7th Street in Benwood from 2 to 4 p.m. The family requests that expressions of sympathy be directed to the Benwood Volunteer Fire Department or to the Preston County Humane Society.

## Waist Watchers a success

By Colleen O'Neill

The program that addresses our needs of losing weight, being healthy, and just living better has reached the end of its first session.

The group of more than 25 DEP employees lost a cumulative total of 170.75 pounds.

Losing 28½ pounds, Marcy Holstein, of the Office of Explosives and Blasting, claimed the grand prize of \$171. Second place went to the Division of Air Quality's Theresa Adkins and Human Resource's David Kersey walked away with third place.

But all the participants were winners.

"It's not just a weight-loss program, it's really a healthy living class," said Yvonne Anderson, class leader and

co-coordinator of the Waist Watcher's program.

Each week, Anderson presented tips and tidbits about losing weight and living a healthier lifestyle. One week she addressed the importance of water and how drinking the right amount can aid in both digestion and losing weight.

"You need to drink 70 ounces of water a day," Anderson said.

Another topic discussed was sleep and how the lack of can adversely affect losing weight.

"I learned so much in this class," said Teresa Weaver, the agency Wellness coordinator. She is co-coordinator of this program with Anderson.

The new class begins Wednesday, April 25. The cost is \$1 per week, and the class runs 12 weeks.

# Training or festival, goal is to think ‘fun’

By Kathy Cosco

Learning can be fun! At a recent workshop to train presenters for Project WET, Kim Maxwell didn't ask the participants if they were "Smarter than a Fifth Grader," but rather if they would try to think like one.

The workshop was to teach presenters hands-on, interactive learning activities for students who attend water festivals around the state. Water festivals are one-day educational events for fifth-grade students to increase awareness about natural resources and the importance of protecting water sources. They are also opportunities for teachers to learn innovative approaches to teaching these concepts in the classroom.

Maxwell, the DEP's Project WET coordinator, had the participants out of their chairs throughout the day with an itinerary that featured a water relay, green jeopardy, a



Project WET Coordinator Kim Maxwell, left, had participants out of their chairs throughout the day during her recent workshop to provide water festival presenters with new ideas for learning.

flooding preparedness relay, and an incredible journey activity to help teach how water molecules travel around the Earth and end up in different forms throughout their cycle.

Project WET is a national water education program designed by teachers and resource professionals with a goal of reaching children,

parents and educators.

The participants said they found the training to be fun, yet educational, which is Maxwell's number one goal for both the training and the water festivals.

"Learning can be fun," Maxwell said. "In fact, we tend to remember what we learn better if we are having fun in the process."

Melissa Parsons, with the Salvation Army, agreed. "I had an awesome time! It was much more fun than most training that I attend. I like getting up, moving around and actually doing what was being taught," she said. "The song is still going through my mind ..."

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## Social media in the workplace examined

By Tom Aluise

Did you know?

- The fastest growing demographic of Internet users is the over-50 crowd.
- People spend about 4.5 hours per day on email or social media.



Deem

137 friends.

- People spend 740 billion minutes per month on Facebook.

Those eye-opening tidbits were included in a recent social media seminar conducted for Department of Environmental Protection employees.

Bernie Deem, a human resources training expert; Danielle Cox, an information security officer with

- According to a 2011 survey, 56 percent of the responding companies said they used social media to recruit potential job candidates.

- On average, there are 90 million tweets sent every day by Twitter users.

- There are close to 900 million users of Facebook.

- The average Facebook user has

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## New Additions Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Andrew Coleman, DMR
- ▶ Melissa Dragan, DLR
- ▶ Larry Dunn, DMR
- ▶ Dan Hemmelgarn, OOG
- ▶ Jeff McLaughlin, OOG
- ▶ Chris Messinger, OOG
- ▶ David Rockwood, DMR
- ▶ Dan Wheeler, DMR



# State blasters learning from the best

By Tom Aluise

It was a training conference for blasters with a dynamite list of presenters.

“All of these guys are recognized as the top experts in their fields,” said Jim Ratcliff, program manager for the DEP’s Office of Explosives and Blasting.

Ratcliff was describing the list of presenters at the OEB’s annual Blaster Refresher Training Conference, conducted over two days earlier this month at the Holiday Inn & Suites in South Charleston.

Organized to provide state blasters with continuing education hours and a review of current technology, safety practices and regulatory issues, the training conference attracted close to 100 attendees — and its usual highly respected and knowledgeable list of presenters, including Frank Chiappetta.

“Look at the caliber of guys we’ve got here,” Ratcliff said. “Frank Chiappetta is a world-recognized expert. He has authored textbooks and his company does work around the world.”

Chiappetta’s experience in explosives and blasting spans close to 40 years

## A training lineup that packs punch

In addition to Frank Chiappetta (right), the OEB conference roster included:

**Dennis Schulz**  
Emulsion Product Development manager for Austin Powder Co.

**Joe Accardo**  
A former F-15 fighter pilot and now a well-respected expert on drilling- and tooling-related topics

**Bob McClure**  
President of R.A. McClure Inc., an independent international consulting and explosives engineering company

**Joe Nawrocki**  
Technical manager for Dyno Nobel Inc., who has 40 years of experience in the field and serves as chairman of the Maryland Explosives Advisory Council

**Doug Rudenko**  
Vice president for Vibra-Tech Engineers Inc., who has worked around the country analyzing the effects of vibrations on various types of structures

**Neal Lee**  
A senior technical representative for Nelson Brothers, who has experience in railroad bridge demolition shots, construction blasting in close proximity of homes and businesses and cast blasting in surface coal mines

**Tom Hairhoger**  
A technical representative with Austin Powder with 34 years of experience

**Larry Schneider**  
The former director of the Division of Explosives and Blasting with the Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals

**John Babcock**  
Executive Technical Manager for South Technical Service, who oversees the seismograph analysis and vibration program for 65 quarries



Frank Chiappetta, a world-recognized expert in explosives and blasting, is a regular at the OEB’s annual blasters training conference.

and includes a Distinguished Service Award from the International Society of Explosives Engineers. He is president of

Blasting Analysis International, a consulting group that does work around the world. Chiappetta has traveled the globe

talking about the principles of blasting — he left from Charleston to attend a conference in Australia — but his

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evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration, surface runoff”

Parsons signed up for the training because the Salvation Army is teaming up with Project WET to offer a festival for its summer youth program.

In recent years, there have been two water festivals conducted by Project WET.

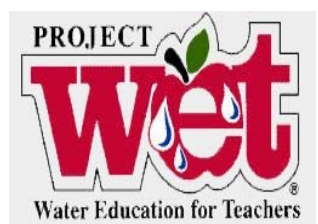
However, Maxwell said word is getting out about how engaging they are, and there are eight scheduled so far this year. If the events themselves are as fun as

## 2012 Water Festivals

- ▶ Hurricane Water Festival, Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4, at the Wave Pool
- ▶ Boys and Girls Club of Charleston Water Festival, Friday, June 29, Coal River Group Park, St. Albans
- ▶ Charleston Water Festival, Friday, Sept. 14, Capitol Lawn, Charleston
- ▶ Wyoming County Water Festival, Thursday, Sept. 20, R.D. Bailey Lake
- ▶ Fayette County Water Festival, Friday, Sept. 21, Fayette County/4H Park
- ▶ Nicholas County Water Festival, Thursday, Sept. 27, Carnifex Ferry, Summersville
- ▶ McDowell County Water Festival, Friday, Sept. 28, Welch
- ▶ Grandview Water Festival, Thursday, Oct. 4, and Friday, Oct. 5, Grandview State Park, Beckley.

the training, it’s no wonder the number of

festivals is increasing. “What stuck with me



the most is the energy and excitement all the presenters had,” said Megan Smith, who works in the DWWM’s program support section.

“That excitement, in turn, rubbed off on us and made me excited to participate in festivals in the future.”

Maxwell said her next goal is to offer a similar training opportunity for teachers.

## Reward and Recognition

Brian Carr and Jason Harmon



These two employees were tasked with developing and administering a new program to protect our state’s waters from withdrawals associated with the fracking process used with horizontal drilling for natural gas. They willingly took on the challenge and began the necessary research, developed databases, and developed new application forms.

Soon after the process was approved by management, phone calls with countless questions flooded in, requiring quick action. These two employees responded professionally. They have reviewed and processed nearly 100 water management plans in short order, while still maintaining their other duties.

## Employees of the Month

**Steve Graley**  
*January*



**Steve Graley** has been the lone maintenance worker in the DEP headquarters since Roosevelt Arthur’s retirement in October 2011.

He consistently provides timely and efficient service to the Charleston office, as well as other offices from time to time. He assists agency staff every day with office moves, collection and delivery of surplus property, repair of office furniture and much more.

His good nature and excellent customer service make him a joy to be around.

**Rob Pichardo**  
*February*



**Rob Pichardo** stepped into his role as legal counsel for the Office of Oil and Gas at an extremely busy time and managed to “hang on” through a limited transition and truly learn on the run.

He has taken on a number of responsibilities, including in the enforcement area working with the inspection staff on notices of violation and consent orders. In the past few weeks, he has taken on the task of deciphering recently passed legislation on horizontal drilling. He spent hours piecing the provisions together, creating forms and instructions for use by the applicants.

## DEP Safety Committee

# Tips for dealing with tornadoes

The following weather signs may mean that a tornado is approaching:

A dark or green-colored sky.

A large, dark, low-lying cloud.

Large hail.

A loud roar that sounds like a freight train.

If you notice any of these weather conditions, take cover immediately, and keep tuned to local radio and TV stations or to a NOAA weather radio.

### Sighting a funnel cloud

If you see a funnel cloud nearby, take shelter immediately. However, if you spot a tornado that is far away, help alert others to the hazard by reporting it to the newsroom of a local radio or



TV station before taking shelter. Use common sense and exercise caution: if you believe that you might be in danger, seek shelter immediately.

### Taking shelter

The key to surviving a tornado and reducing the risk of injury lies in planning, preparing, and practicing what you and your family will do if a tornado strikes. Flying debris causes most deaths and injuries during a tornado. Although there is no *completely* safe place during a tornado, some locations are much safer than others.

### At home

Pick a place in the home where family members can gather if a tornado is headed your way. One basic rule is *AVOID WINDOWS*. An exploding window can injure or kill.

The safest place in the home is the interior part of a basement. If there is no basement, go to an inside room, without windows, on the lowest floor. This could be a center hallway, bathroom, or closet.

For added protection, get under something sturdy such as a heavy table or workbench. If possible, cover your body with a blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress, and protect your head with anything available — even your hands. Avoid taking shelter where there are heavy objects, such as pianos or refrigerators, on the area of floor that is directly above you. They could fall though the floor if the tornado strikes your house.

### In a mobile home

**DO NOT STAY IN A MOBILE HOME DURING A TORNADO.** Mobile homes can turn over during strong winds. Even mobile homes with a tie-down system cannot withstand the force of tornado winds. Plan ahead. If you live in a mobile home, go to a nearby building,

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University of Charleston first-year pharmacy students and DEP interns Tiffani Lovins (left) and Amy Barr look over the booklet they helped put together as part of the agency’s Waist Watchers weight-loss program.

# Interns help prepare healthy living booklet

By Colleen O’Neill

A Waist Watchers’ “Healthy Living Guide” has been created to aid employees in adding healthy practices to their busy lifestyles.

University of Charleston pharmacy students and DEP interns Tiffani Lovins and Amy Barr compiled the guide, under the tutelage of Teresa Weaver.

“It was important to make this information easily available,” said Weaver, the DEP’s Wellness coordinator.

“We live in a society where the rate of morbid obesity and being overweight is increasing. We need to change our lifestyle, eat better, move more, just take better care of ourselves. Besides adversely affecting our appearance, inactivity and obesity can cause a myriad of health problems.”

Inspired by and given to the members of Waist Watchers, a weight-loss

program sponsored by the DEP Wellness Program, the guide will be made available to all employees by May.

There will be three ways to pick up a copy of the guide. It will be available at the Wellness Place, located on the residence side of the building on the third floor.

Guides also will be available electronically and in hard-copy form by contacting Weaver.

Lovins and Barr are first-year pharmacy students. They became interested in the field while taking undergraduate courses.

“My neighbor is a pharmacist,” Barr, 22, said. “We would talk, and as my area of study was biology, I found it interesting. So, I thought I’d give it a try.”

Lovins, 31, came to her decision a different way. “I started out studying to be a doctor, but that wasn’t right for me,” she said. “I even was an accountant, but that wasn’t right, either.”

## MEDIA

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the state Office of Technology; and Kathy Cosco, communications director for the DEP, were presenters at the seminar.

“The objective of the seminar was to make employees and employers aware of the social media policy for DEP, as well as for the state, as provided by the Office of Technology,” said Nancy Frazier, an Administrative Services assistant for the DEP.

The seminar also examined both the advantages and drawbacks of using social media in a professional setting.

Cosco crafted the DEP’s social media policy. It can be found on the agency’s Intranet.

Two offices within the agency have Facebook pages — the Youth Environmental Program and the Division of Water and Waste Management’s NonPoint Source Program.

Cosco said any DEP-sponsored Facebook page must be approved by the cabinet secretary and meet all the guidelines outlined in the agency’s social media policy.

“If communicating on behalf of the DEP, you need to keep in mind that you are representing the agency,” she said.

Deem talked about the benefits of social media in the workplace, including its ability to allow workers to connect and share information.

“Social media is changing how we do business,” Deem said.

But she also pointed out that misuse leads to decreased productivity at work.

Almost 40 percent of all social media used at work is for personal reasons, studies have found.

Misuse also creates potential liability issues for both employers and employees in areas such as copyright and trademark infringement, harassment and discrimination, pornography, slander and defamation, and privacy rights.

“The rules keep changing,” Deem said. “It’s impossible to keep this presentation updated.”

Deem said a good social media policy should include expectations of use, as well as prohibited activities.

## TIPS

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preferably one with a basement.

If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in the nearest ditch, ravine, or culvert and shield your head with your hands.

### On the road

The least desirable place to be during a tornado is in a motor vehicle. Cars, buses, and trucks are easily tossed by tornado winds. **DO NOT TRY TO OUTFRAN A TORNADO IN YOUR CAR.** If you see a tornado, stop your vehicle and get

out. Do not get under your vehicle. Follow the directions for seeking shelter outdoors.

### Outdoors

If you are caught outside during a tornado and there is no adequate shelter immediately available:

Avoid areas with

many trees.

Avoid vehicles.

Lie down flat in a gully, ditch, or low spot on the ground.

Protect your head with an object or with your arms.

— Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**D**EP inspectors never know what they might encounter during a typical day in the field.

Take Logan mining inspectors Phillip Williamson and David Miller, for example.

Williamson was in the middle of a long hike to reach some remote outlets on a mine site when he, along with inspector specialist Doug Boone, almost stepped on a fawn (right).

“We would not have even noticed it, save for the fact when I went downslope to take a water sample, I was eye level with it,” Williamson said.

“Its camouflage was so good that we were literally standing inches from it and we didn’t know it was there.”

Williamson said the fawn was about the same size as a size 12 boot.

“It stayed almost completely still in hopes that we wouldn’t notice it and leave,” he said.

With camera ready, Williamson was able to snap some memorable photos.

“Once taken, we continued on our way and left the fawn undisturbed,” he said.



Miller was on a reclaimed surface mine in Mingo County when he came upon the remnants of a couple of nature lovers (right).

“I’ve encountered several beautiful views from high elevations,” Miller said, “but someone apparently liked this one enough to set up a couple of lawn chairs.”

The Guyandotte River can be seen in the photo.



## ALL IN A DAY’S WORK



### BLASTERS

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visits to the OEB’s annual training in West Virginia are among his favorite and most productive stops.

Chiappetta credited Ratcliff and OEB Chief Dave Vande Linde for organizing a quality and educational conference.

“The group here seems to take a little more interest and adjusts to what is going on in the industry,” Chiappetta said. “I work with some regulators who are only interested in fining people. And, that’s not good. That’s why I like this conference. To me, it’s more genuine.”

Ratcliff has heard some of the same things from Chiappetta, whose resume includes work on the first major expansion and deepening of the Panama Canal.

“Frank has told me, ‘Jim, you guys have one of the best conferences in the country. It’s just the right size and allows interaction.’”

“Some of the other conferences have 400 to 500 people which limits interaction.”

Ratcliff said the OEB’s lineup of presenters provides a lot of technical training that blasters can take back to the field and implement.

“It expands their knowledge base and exposes them to new

and different things,” he said. “It also provides them with a professional resource if they’re having problems finding someone to help them.”

All of this year’s presenters had busy schedules, but still managed to carve out time for the OEB training.

In fact, they volunteer their time and cover their own expenses, Ratcliff said.

Why?

“Because of their dedication to the explosives and blasting industry and in order to provide quality training to blasters who otherwise would not have the opportunity to get that type of exposure,” Ratcliff said.