

# Teaching around the globe

*DEP's Sams takes environmental education to Nepal*

By Colleen O'Neill

Many of us only dream of globe-trotting to an exotic land where an unfamiliar language is spoken and fantastic rituals are observed. For Callie Cronin Sams, a field specialist with the Department of Environmental Protection, this dream came true. And not only did Sams get this great opportunity to witness life in a foreign land, she also was able to impart her environmental knowledge with the local children.

"I discovered the non-profit organization, Nepal Teacher Training Innovations (NTTI), through their fundraising page on the Catapult Web site," Sams said. She explained that Catapult is a

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The DEP's Callie Cronin Sams, top, recently spent time in Nepal on a teaching mission. Behind her is the Annapurna Mountain Range. At right, local children walk home from school down a mountain path. Sams provided bags donated by the DEP to the children, many of whom didn't have a bag to carry their books.



# Boehm has bittersweet day in Boston

By Tom Aluise

Rich Boehm was getting ready to make the turn onto Boylston Street, a half-mile away from the finish line of the prestigious Boston Marathon.

His watch said he had been running for 4 hours and five minutes, and a fatigued Boehm was disappointed that his goal of a sub 4-hour marathon would not be achieved on this day.

With music filling his ears through head phones and the cheers of thousands of spectators providing additional background noise, Boehm



Boehm

didn't hear the explosions. He knew, though, something was wrong.

"Everything just came to a standstill really quick," said Boehm, who works for the DEP's Division of Air Quality and was running the 26.2-mile Boston Marathon for the first time.

"We were told there was an accident up ahead. I was thinking a runner

had gotten hurt or something of that nature.

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# Earth Day celebration set for April 19

By Colleen O'Neill

For kids who like to dig in the dirt, play with creepy crawlers or even engage in a mental challenge, the Clay Center in downtown Charleston is the place to be on April 19.

The Department of Environmental Protection will host its annual Earth Day celebration that morning and afternoon, with close to 350 kids expected to enjoy the array of interactive displays set up outside the Clay Center. The event will move indoors in the case of bad weather.

"It should be a nice turnout," said the DEP's Travis Cooper, who coordinates the Earth Day celebration.

"Five area elementary schools have registered. That's about 350 students, but there are usually some overflow kids attending other events



Youth Environmental Program Director Diana Haid, left, and the YEP's Nick Pahoundis engage Earth Day participants at the Clay Center in a game of Junk Jeopardy.

who stop and check out what we have to offer."

That could be especially true this year. Nationally known zookeeper Jack Hanna will be entertaining roughly 3,500 students inside the Clay Center with his array of exotic animals at the same time the DEP's Earth Day celebration is in progress.

Until six years ago, the Earth Day celebration was sponsored by the state

Division of Natural Resources. The DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan program (REAP) now coordinates the day, along with help from the DNR, the Division of Forestry, the Department of Agriculture and others.

"From DEP, we have a variety of displays," Cooper said. Among the activities planned for the kids are a rain barrel demonstration and "Junk Jeopardy"

modeled after the popular game show with categories like Recycling or Litter Control.

"If the children get the question right they get a prize, and if they get it wrong, it gives us the perfect opportunity to educate them about the correct answer and the why behind their wrong answer and the correct one," Cooper said. "The kids really enjoy it. Our Youth Environmental Program has created this game as a fun way to exercise their environmental knowledge."

Cooper said the Division of Forestry usually has an interactive game teaching the children about trees; the DNR will bring live snakes; and Agriculture will set up a display with various insects.

The Earth Day celebration is scheduled to start at 10 a.m.

## Team hammering out support system details

By Rick Doneghy

The proposed IRIS functional requirements sessions are nearly half-way complete.

These sessions are providing IRIS implementation team members from each WVDEP program area an opportunity to present and discuss their needs and requirements specific to their respective program areas.

The sessions, which are being conducted on alternate weeks, will continue throughout the first week of May.

As the implementation team members continue to discuss their functional requirements, selected team members are discussing issues critical to the implementation of IRIS and are hammering out the



details for the establishment of the infrastructure that will support the system.

The involvement of staff members from the program areas has been particularly impressive. Each session has included extensive discussions about each program's needs and functionality. The purpose is to provide solutions for the collection of data and information from the agency perspective.

As work continues for the IRIS implementation, the IRIS Web site is being

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Jacob Adkins, son of DEP employees Jesse and Sandie Adkins, works on his personalized T-shirt during last year’s Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day at the DEP.

## April 25 is day to bring kids to work

National Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day is April 25 and the Department of Environmental Protection is planning a day of activities at the Charleston headquarters for kids who participate.

The age range for children is 8 to 18 years old and DEP employees can invite not only their own kids to the office, but nieces, nephews, grandchildren and even a neighbor.

Following check-in and breakfast, kids will take part in activities with

Education for Teachers), the Youth Environmental Program and REAP (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan).

The guest speaker for the day will be Sgt. Warren E. Goodson from the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section.

Registration is required for the event. For more information contact Barbara Miles at:

Barbara.A.Miles@wv.gov or call 304-926-0499, ext. 1566.

## Blood Drive



Dave Long, of the DEP’s Division of Land Restoration, was among the 35 donors who participated in the April 2 Red Cross Blood Drive at DEP headquarters. The next blood drive is scheduled for June 4 and the goal is to reach 44 donations, said the DEP’s Denise Truman. According to the Red Cross, one blood donation may help save three lives.

# Clarifying the definition of out-of-state travel for DEP staff

The DEP requires more extensive approvals for out-of-state travel than for in-state travel.

Section 3.7 of the agency’s Travel Policy has resulted in some questions with regard to what constitutes “out-of-state travel” requiring that a travel authorization form be completed and receive all approvals and be sent to the DEP travel coordinator in the Office of Administration prior to the travel.

To clarify, out-of-state travel:

1. Employees stay in accommodations that are out of the state, or
2. They fly out of state, (even if they return the same day), or
3. They are paying a registration fee for an event held in another state

Office of Administration



Those meeting this definition of out-of-state travel will require all approvals on the authorization form prior to their travel.

Out-of-state travel is routed through your division director and then requires the approval of the chief of the Office of Administration.

In-state travel:

1. Employee travels by car from West Virginia into another state(s) and back to West Virginia the same day, and
2. There is no registration fee for an event they attended and
3. They are attending a meeting, conducting an inspection, sampling, or other “regular work activities.”

This interpretation is meant to limit the paperwork required for employees whose regular work takes them into a bordering state for a meeting, to conduct sampling or an inspection, or simply as the most direct route from a location in West Virginia to another location in the state.

As always, employees should make their supervisor aware of their attendance at and location of meetings and other work activities.

► The Office of Administration often receives questions from employees about procedural changes, policies, and other information of general interest to DEP employees.

While the office often answers these questions by email, it believes it is important to establish a method to archive the information provided to employees.

More Office of Administration Bulletins — Questions from the Field, are featured on the DEP Intranet, under Administration.

# DEP benefits from annual Expo

By Tom Aluise

Charleston's annual Construction & Design Expo touts itself as the region's largest trade show for the construction and design industry.

It features free admission to the Charleston Civic Center, close to 300 exhibitors and 5,000 attendees, plus nearly 70 seminars and meetings.

"Basically everybody in our world participates in the Expo," said the DEP's Kathy Emery, who manages the Division of Water and Waste Management's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.

The SRF program has been a regular exhibitor at the Construction & Design Expo for at least the past 20 years, said Emery, who's been with the agency 18 years. This year's Expo ran March 20-21 at the Civic Center.



Staff from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund section (from left) Jeff Brady, Corey McComas and Jason Billups talk with visitors during the Construction & Design Expo.

Emery's program uses state and federal funding to issue low-interest loans for water quality improvement projects in municipalities, public service districts and other entities, all of whom are always well represented at the Expo.

Consulting engineers, construction industry reps and PSD officials were frequent visitors to

this year's SRF booth, which was manned by staffers from both the program's engineering and financial management sides.

"They have access to us to talk about funding projects," Emery said. "They seem to like the one-one-one contact."

Emery's crew also benefits from its interaction with the public and from visiting

other exhibitors at the Expo who are showcasing new technology in areas such as wastewater treatment.

"We have access to manufacturers to get updates on the latest technology," Emery said.

SRF engineers can benefit, as well, from Professional Development Hours offered during the Expo.

"We get value on all fronts," Emery said.

For that same reason, the DWWM's Dam Safety Program also participates annually in the Expo, as does the DWWM's permitting section.

"The main reason we go is simply to network," said Brian Long, who manages the Dam Safety Program, tasked with ensuring the state's non-coal dams are constructed, maintained, operated or removed in a safe manner.

## Warm weather brings to mind Cup competition

The DEP's ultra-successful Corporate Cup Team will shoot for its 12th consecutive Division III title beginning June 1 when the annual YMCA-sponsored competition among area businesses and agencies begins.

The competition runs through June 22.

Last year, the DEP scored 185 points to claim first place in Division III, which includes businesses with more than 300 employees.

The CC team is in the process of raising funds for entrance fees, shirts and whatever other supplies it needs.

There is a CC Committee that is responsible for all fund-raising efforts.

The committee also recruits team members and captains from DEP's



Jay Fedczak, from the Division of Air Quality, looks on during Corporate Cup softball action last year at the North Charleston fields.

diverse and plentiful pool of employees.

The fundraisers, like food sales and the Recycle sale, will be announced by e-mail, as will the call for team members and captains.

New team members are always welcome to fill CC spots.

## New Additions Recent DEP hires

- ▶ **Philip Carper**  
Division of Water and Waste
- ▶ **Travis Ellison**  
Office of Legal Services
- ▶ **James Golden**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Joshua Griffin**  
Division of Water and Waste
- ▶ **Ryan Harbison**  
Division of Water and Waste
- ▶ **Ashley Hicks**  
Public Information Office
- ▶ **Kimberly Higginbotham**  
Division of Land Restoration
- ▶ **Matthew Poling**  
Division of Land Restoration
- ▶ **Gregory Smith**  
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Pamela Sutton**  
Administration
- ▶ **Gia Tyree**  
Administration



## DMR 2012 Reclamation Award winners

The DEP's Division of Mining and Reclamation announced its 2012 Reclamation Award winners at the West Virginia Coal Association's 40th annual state Mining Symposium on March 6-8 in Charleston. Following is the list of winners:

■ Alex Energy, Inc. — Whitman Surface Mine, Surface Rec. South. **DEP sponsor: Allen Kuhn.**

For exemplary performance in reclamation on a surface mine. From preparations of the soils to the permanent vegetative cover and extraordinary diversity in tree species including over 60 percent native hardwoods and a 2-acre apple orchard on top of valley fill No. 2.

■ Pocahontas Coal Co. — East Gulf Complex, Coal Refuse Rec. South. **DEP sponsor: Jerry Quesenberry.**

For exemplary performance in reclamation of a refuse facility. For achieving environmental compliance and incorporating community involvement in the expansion of a pre-law refuse area into an aesthetically appealing facility with their "Green Project" challenge to all operations.

■ Consolidation Coal Co. — Itmann No. 3 Mine, Deep Mine Rec. South. **DEP sponsor: Earl Holt.**

For exemplary performance in reclamation of a deep mine facility. From the timely reclamation and establishing vegetation at the portal areas prior to the removal of two large ponds; reconstructing the stream channel and initiating a riparian/wildlife management plan.

■ Consolidation Coal Co. — Turkey Gap Refuse Impoundment, Refuse Reclamation South. **DEP sponsor: Earl Holt.**

For exemplary performance in the reclamation of a refuse area, preparation plant and deep mine complex. After reclamation of the mining complex was completed, coal fines were reprocessed at the Turkey Gap impoundment over a five-year period. Consol initiated reclamation of the impoundment in

2011 and finished in 2012. Extra effort was used in the establishment of the drainage channels, leaving an aesthetically pleasing and a highly functional end result.

■ Wolf Run Mining Co. — Reed Hollow Refuse, Refuse Reclamation North. **DEP sponsor: Thomas Fultz.**

For exemplary performance in reclamation of a refuse facility and the innovative approach to the use of Short Paper Fiber as an amendment to the refuse in order to reduce the generation of acid mine drainage and help stabilize the slopes and provide resistance to erosion.

■ Ten-A Coal Co. — Koon Surface Mine, Surface Mine Rec. North. **DEP sponsor: Kaitlyn Kiehart.**

For exemplary performance in reclamation of a pre-law deep mine that had created subsidence damage to the stream running through the hollow. Ten-A Coal contour mined the area and eliminated the pre-law highwall, restored the stream channel and reclaimed the site.

■ Met Resources, LLC — McComas Haulroad, Haulroad Construction South. **DEP sponsor: Justin White.**

For exemplary performance in haulroad construction in that an existing county road that was previously deemed unusable to the public is now constructed of extremely durable material with reconstructed drainage control and now provides use to the members of the community

■ Met Resources, LLC — McComas Surface Mine No. 1, Drainage and Sediment Control South. **DEP sponsor: Justin White.**

For exemplary performance in reclamation of a surface mine and the engineering and construction of the drainage structures to ensure that each exit channel mirrors one another. Met Resources mined the area and returned the site to blend in with the surrounding topography in an environmentally responsible

manner, achieving environmental compliance with no violations during the life of the permit.

■ Kanawha Energy Co. — Jackson Hollow Refuse, Refuse Reclamation North. **DEP sponsor: Cindy Cross.**

For exemplary reclamation of a pre-law refuse facility. Kanawha Energy acquired the facility that had remained on inactive status since 1985 with little maintenance and poor water quality. During the next four months, the site was regraded with an alkaline amendment and seeded. Sediment control was re-established to keep surface water contamination and erosion to a minimum and making the site more aesthetically appealing.

■ Mingo Logan Coal Co. — Mountain Laurel Complex, Pool Dewatering Project. **DEP sponsor: Doug Boone.**

For exemplary techniques and innovative design of a specific treatment system in order to eliminate total suspended solids in the impoundment. Water from the impoundment is pumped to two large holding ponds where an automated treatment process utilizes turbidity probes and pumps to control the amount of chemical necessary to provide environmental compliance.

■ Apogee Coal Co. — Guyan Surface mine, Drainage and Sediment Control. **DEP sponsor: Allen Kuhn.**

For exemplary construction techniques protecting the environment on drainage structures. Over nine miles of sediment structures are each designed individually for the drainage area they are required to handle.

■ Coal-Mac Inc. — New Ridge East Surface Mine, NWTF. **DEP sponsor: Jonathan Rorrer.**

For the National Wild Turkey Federation award. This permit combines the best of mountain-top mining with returning the area to a post-mining land use of hayland and pasture while integrating the development of wildlife habitat for wild turkeys.

## DEP hosting two Sustainability Workshops in May

Organizations from across the state can learn more about "sustainability" and other ways to improve their social, economic and environmental performance during two identical two-day Sustainability Workshops at DEP headquarters in Charleston.

The free workshops, scheduled June 3-4 and June 5-6, are

sponsored by the DEP, the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and the Sustainability Institute at Bridgemont Community and Technical College.

The Sustainability Workshops are designed to bring together organizations interested in learning more about

sustainability and managing environmental impacts, as well as other ways to improve economic, environmental, and social performance.

Registration deadline is May 13. For more information contact Greg Adolfsen at (304) 926-0499, ext. 1332 or: [gregory.e.adolfsen@wv.gov](mailto:gregory.e.adolfsen@wv.gov).



This structure on pre-law mining-impacted Buffalo Creek in Logan County is helping restore the stream to the days when trout fishing was plentiful.

# Buffalo Creek

## With DEP's help, Logan County stream is making great strides

By Kathy Cosco

Restoration work on Logan County's Buffalo Creek is gaining momentum with the help of funding from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Earlier this month, the Buffalo Creek Watershed Association had a public ceremony to recognize the DEP and other groups involved in the restoration of 13 miles of Buffalo Creek, heavily impacted by pre-law mining.

The ultimate goal is to get the stream placed on the Division of Natural Resources' seasonal trout stocking list.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman, Division of Mining and Reclamation Director Tom Clarke and other DMR and DEP personnel attended the event, during which the agency committed an additional \$311,000 to the project.

Also, Cliffs Natural Resources made a contribution of \$20,000 and the Mountain State Mitigation Bank contributed \$4,600 to the Buffalo Creek Watershed Association to support the project.

Restoration efforts include the installation of more than 150 rock and log structures on the stream to create additional fish habitat. Appalachian Stream Restoration is doing the work.

Following the Buffalo Creek Disaster in 1972, the Army



The Buffalo Creek Watershed Association's annual youth fishing day attracted hundreds of young anglers to the stream this month.



Association member Perry Harvey, left, recognized the DEP and Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman for the agency's support of Buffalo Creek.

Corps of Engineers reconstructed the stream with the goal of preventing future flood events.

While the design has achieved the goal of allowing area residents to feel safer and sleep at night, the straighter and flatter stream no longer offered deep pools or other

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# Volunteers set record for MIS cleanup

By Tom Aluise

West Virginians are in a cleanin' mood this spring.

That's one way to explain the record number of volunteers who signed up for the spring Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup, which ran over the first two weeks of April.

Travis Cooper, who coordinates the MIS program for the DEP, said close to 5,700 volunteers from across West Virginia registered to remove litter

from the state's landscape.

That's double the number of participants compared to 10 years ago.

"Our numbers have been slowly growing," Cooper said. "And we've done more mass mailings and placed more ads in local newspapers."

Cooper said 140 cleanup projects, also a record, were scheduled this spring throughout the Mountain State as part of the MIS program.

One of those projects belonged to the fledgling Environmental Action Club at Winfield High School.

A contingent from the 10-member club spent a Saturday morning at Winfield Beach, near the locks and dam, picking up litter along the river's edge.

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Winfield High students pick up trash on the banks of the Kanawha River in Putnam County.



**GLOBE**

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“funding platform for gender equality.” As part of the DEP’s Youth Environmental Program, Sams is no stranger to teaching young people.

“The non-profit only works in Nepal, but that’s where I had wanted to go,” said Sams, who works out of the DEP’s French Creek office. “I wanted to see the Himalaya Mountains, to explore Buddhist/Hindu philosophy, and to make a difference in a developing country, especially for girls and women, with a focus on environmental issues and education.”

Nepal is located in South Asia and Sams spent most of her time in the country’s capital of Kathmandu. She also visited some of the nation’s rural districts during her nine-day stay in Nepal that ended on March 27.

Sams taught at three different schools — a private school in Kathmandu and two government schools in a rural area of the Kavre District, east of Kathmandu. The learning conditions were far from what Americans would consider “up to par,” she said.

“I taught a class on litter and recycling,” Sams said. “Nepal is transitioning from a monarchy to a democracy, so many government systems are in flux. They do not have access to widespread, reliable trash service, and recycling is even less common.

“Therefore, I focused my lesson on the importance of not littering and reducing the amount of plastics used. While some students guessed that it would take longer for plastic to decompose than paper or cotton cloth, they didn’t realize just how long, and that effectively it doesn’t decompose. They were very surprised by this, and I hope will be more concerned now about the litter problem.”

Sams said in most Nepal schools the teaching methods are outdated and not conducive to



Sams taught at three different schools in Nepal, including this government school in a rural area of the Kavre District. The learning conditions at the schools in Nepal would not be what Americans consider “up to par,” Sams said.

real learning.

“The focus is on memorization and interrogation, which intimidates students and hinders understanding,” she said. “For instance, students might be expected to memorize a list of facts. Then, the teacher will call on a student to stand up and recite the facts. There is no emphasis on problem-solving or critical thinking. The priority in most schools is to get through the entire curriculum for that year, rather than understanding the concepts which are covered.”

Sams explained how NTTI provides training for teachers on more progressive teaching methods that encourage critical thinking, innovation, and a deeper understanding of concepts. The methods used include using partner and group work, fostering student-led learning, teaching to multiple learning styles, and creating child friendly learning environments.

Nepal is landlocked, with China to its north and India to its south. More than three-fourths of the population is Hindu.

“I didn’t see a single fast food chain or chain retailer on the

entire trip,” Sams said. “I have been a vegetarian for many years and my family loves Indian/curry food, so the diet wasn’t that much of an adjustment for me. However, it might be an adjustment for other Americans.”

Sams’ visit coincided with the country’s dry season. The temperature was pleasant at 75 to 80 degrees during the day and 45 to 50 degrees at night.

“Since it was the dry season, everything was very dusty, plus there is litter everywhere,” Sams said. “I can’t stress that enough. I think the litter problem was the most shocking aspect of the trip.”

Sams did get to spend a couple of days at a Buddhist monastery, where she meditated and did yoga.

“I learned so much and feel so lucky and blessed to have had the experience and I also really appreciate more what we take for granted here,” Sams said. “They do not have access to reliable trash service, clean water, or electricity and their educational and economic opportunities are limited. But they are so welcoming and friendly, and eager to address the problems

**RECORD**

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Senior Sequoya Bua-Ian started her school’s environmental club just four years ago and said it’s a regular participant in the MIS program. In fact, the club’s annual trips to Winfield Beach for cleanups are evident every year in the reduced amount of litter.

“We’re all pretty dedicated,” she said.

And successful. The club has collected more than 7,000 pounds of office paper from Winfield over the past four years as part of its recycling program. It also collects money for World Vision and leads hikes on the Mary Ingles Trail.

**DEP cleanup set for May 7**

The annual DEP Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on May 7.

The cleanup will include the stretch of road from Highland Hospital to the Big Lots.

Dark blue AAH canvas baseball hats will be given out to all



who choose to participate in the cleanup.

If interested, contact Sherry Thaxton at 304-926-0499 ext. 1198, or e-mail: Sherry.R.Thaxton@wv.gov.

Only DEP employees and their families may participate.

## December Employee of the Month



### Tom Wood, DMR — Oak Hill

Wood is a “wearer of many hats.” When needed, he will take on whatever task is required to get the job done.

He stepped into his role as a permitting supervisor and has proven himself to be a true leader to his employees. Wood does not expect anything of his staff that he would not do himself.

He puts his entire self into a project, as was well demonstrated by his preparation of the Permitting Overview training session presented during the permitting conference this past spring.

Wood always tries to make himself available to his employees to answer any questions. If he doesn’t know the answer, he will do his best to get the answer as promptly as possible.

## March Employee of the Month



### Kay Holtsclaw, OOG — Charleston

Holtsclaw has served in a number of titles and had a variety of responsibilities over the past 28 years in state government.

She has always maintained an unsurpassed work ethic and commitment to her job and continues to do so in her current role in the Office of Oil and Gas.

She is extremely dependable and always on task. Holtsclaw is a team player, willing to pitch in where needed to accomplish a task.

Most recently, she has provided valuable assistance with database research associated with well activity.

### BOEHM

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“But word quickly came back that it was a bomb. Obviously, it was a lot more serious than everybody thought. It quickly went from ‘There’s a bomb’ to ‘the race course is closed and the race is over.’”

In no time, Boehm learned the explosions had occurred near the marathon’s finish line. And he knew his wife, Kara, likely was nearby. She was well aware of her husband’s goal of completing the race in less than four hours and had planned to greet him at the finish.

“I was very concerned,” Boehm said. “She was expecting me. I knew she was at the finish line.”

Boehm was able to borrow a cell phone and text Kara. He chillingly discovered that she was just 100 yards away from where the blasts occurred but was OK. For Boehm, the next several minutes were a whirlwind of texting family and trying to stay in contact with Kara so they could map out a plan to meet.

“I probably borrowed five different phones,” Boehm said. “There wasn’t a lot of direction after it happened.”

Boehm was running in the April 15 race as an invited fundraising guest and was competing in honor of his mother, Judy, who passed away last November following a battle with cancer. Boehm collected close to \$5,500 for the non-profit National Foundation for Cancer Research. Roughly \$1,500 of that total came from DEP co-workers.

For Boehm, the day was understandably bittersweet. The euphoria from simply earning a spot on the starting line of the most famous road race in the world, along with his fundraising success in honor of his mom, was sharply diminished by two devastating bomb blasts that killed three and injured others.

“This was not the way I wanted to finish the race,” Boehm said. “But I was fortunate I was having a bad day running. Had I had a better second half to the race, I could have already been done and walking in the area where the bombs went off. You never know what God has planned for you.”

## DEP retirements

### Brenda Thompson

AML

**Last day:** April 30

**Years of service:** 20

### Joe Reppy

AML

**Last day:** April 30

**Years of service:** 36

### Barbara Miles

Administration

**Last day:** May 31

**Years of service:** 22

### Edward “Ted” Wisner

DWWM

**Last day:** April 30

**Years of service:** 5



# He was called to this hobby

## *DEP's L.T. Pack carves out niche making turkey calls*

**By Tom Aluise**

It's fascinating what some people can do with a piece of wood.

L.T. Pack, who works for the DEP's Office of Special Reclamation, likes to transform rough cuts of butternut and poplar into beautiful, custom-made turkey calls.

The Logan resident and longtime woodworker has been making turkey calls for close to 20 years. Pack has hand-crafted hundreds of calls since he took up the hobby as a natural progression from ... you guessed it, turkey hunting.

"I love to turkey hunt," Pack said, "so this was just a natural extension."

Pack also loves the characteristics of wood and produces his calls from black walnut, cherry and sassafras, in addition to his two favorites, butternut and poplar.

"People will bring me wood and say, 'L.T., I've found this really cool piece of wood, can you do something with it?' But I like using local and domestic woods.

"West Virginia is a wooded state, so there is no lack of materials to work with. I don't use any stains on my calls. I put a finish on them, but I like for the natural beauty of the wood to shine through."

Pack makes three types of turkey calls: trumpet, box and pot calls.

He does most of his work in the winter and can devote as much as 60 to 80 hours on one call. Pack also makes display cases for his calls.

"I'll go out to my woodshed, make a fire and hang out for a while," he said. "I like working



**The DEP's L.T. Pack cuts up wood to supply his turkey call-making hobby. Pack prefers butternut and poplar for the three types of calls he crafts.**



**Pack makes his box calls in a woodshed outside his home in Logan. He works on calls mostly during the winter.**

with my hands."

Pack said creating turkey calls is a labor of love, as well as stress relief. Gobbler season in West Virginia opens April 22.

"I just enjoy doing it and people seem to take to them well," Pack said.

Pack said only a handful of individuals in the country are making a living off custom-made turkey calls. He, obviously, isn't one of them and has no interest in transforming his hobby into a business. Don't look for a reality TV series starring Pack called



**Along with box and pot calls, Pack also makes trumpet calls (above) for turkey hunters.**

"Turkey Dynasty" on A&E anytime soon. Most of Pack's calls are given away or donated to charity. Recently, one of his box calls, with a display case, sold for \$350 in a benefit auction for the Logan Area Chapter of the

**See HOBBY, Page 11**

## Summit postponed

The DEP's Sustainable Schools West Virginia Summit, scheduled for April 28-29 at the Ramada Inn in Charleston, is being postponed until the fall.

The planning committee will continue to meet to make the necessary plans for the Summit in the fall.

## IRIS

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continually updated.

The link to the site can be found on the DEP intranet page under "IRIS Link."

The Web site contains all information available pertaining to the IRIS project. Suggestions for

improvement of the site are welcome.

All suggestions should be sent to Chad Ashworth (Chad.M.Ashworth@wv.gov) or to Rick Doneghy (Rick.N.Doneghy@wv.gov).

*Rick Doneghy, an ITO manager, is coordinating the DEP's involvement in the IRIS (Integrated Regulatory Information System) project.*





B.J. Chestnut, of the DEP’s Office of Oil and Gas (left) and Sheri Richardson, from Human Resources, celebrate as they near the finish line of the Dirty Girl Mud Run.

# Junior camp sign-ups end soon

Applications are being accepted for the 33rd annual state Junior Conservation Camp, scheduled June 17-21 at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

Sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection’s Youth Environmental Program, the camp is open to youth, ages 11-14. The cost is \$165 per child and the deadline for paying the application fee is May 1.

Junior Conservation Camp offers a wide variety of classes that focus on a sound environmental education and other topics, such as first aid and hunter safety.

Approximately 200 campers will learn how to conserve West Virginia’s natural resources by attending classes on subjects such as wildlife, recycling, geocaching/orienteering, water study, forestry, fishing and more. Sports activities will include swimming, basketball, kickball, volleyball, Wiffle Ball and relay races.

Each year, the assemblies feature presenters from organizations around the state who provide demonstrations for the campers. Past presenters have included the Oglebay Good Zoo; the state Division of Natural Resources’ (snake presentation and mechanical deer and turkey demonstrations); DEP Division of Air Quality (energy efficiency demonstration); DEP Dive Team; and the state Division of Forestry (fire dog demonstration).

For more information, contact Diana Haid at 304-926-0499, Ext. 1114 or email: [diana.k.haid@wv.gov](mailto:diana.k.haid@wv.gov).

For youth ages 14-18, the state Conservation Camp at Camp Caesar is scheduled for June 10-15.

## DEP staffers get to play in the mud ... for a good cause

Who knew raising money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation would be so muddy?

A handful of DEP employees found out during the Dirty Girl Mud Run, staged in Charleston’s Coonskin Park on April 6.

The Mud Run is a women-only national mud run series and a partner with the Breast Cancer Foundation, to which it donated \$250,000 last year. The non-competitive charity run/walk attracted more than 2,000 participants to Charleston this month, where they slipped and slid through and over different muddy obstacles on the course.

DEP runners included Laura McGee, Jenna Palmer-Kelly, Tonya Mather, Tina White, Connie Bledsoe, Janice Palmer, Sheri Richardson, Kim Akers, B.J. Chestnut and Trisha Sizemore.



The DEP’s Laura McGee, who works for Environmental Enforcement, took the mud run theme to heart.

This team featured several DEP employees, including (front row): Tonya Mather (first from left); Laura McGee (second); and Jenna Palmer-Kelly (sixth); and (back row): Tina White (second from left); Connie Bledsoe (fifth); and Janice Palmer (seventh). The team raised \$350 in donations.





## Reward, Recognition



### Barbara Miles

Administration, Charleston

Miles works quietly within the Office of Administration, while always keeping an eye on the needs of the staff and always creating a sense of harmony.

Miles is well known for coordinating the completion of the annual budget narrative, and for years, she has acted as the liaison between the Budget Office and the programs within the agency.

She also does a wonderful job organizing the annual DEP picnic and the "Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day."



### Brenda Thompson

AML, Charleston

Thompson is a team player, has a positive attitude, and the image she portrays of DEP is always helpful and professional.

She is extremely conscientious and always considerate of others' schedules before planning time off.

She is in charge of the portable phone system in her section and takes it with her EVERYWHERE.

Thompson is always willing to help others and will always go that "extra mile" to get things accomplished.



### David Kersey

Administration, Charleston

Over the past few months, Kersey has gone above and beyond the call of duty.

He has worked tirelessly during the period of two vacancies and has picked up numerous additional duties, such as PEIA reconciliations, payroll entries, and retirement preparation and entry.

He is always willing to take on additional tasks to help the Human Resources team.

Kersey's positive attitude and generous nature are inspiring to his boss and his co-workers.



## Rain garden gets some TLC

Chris Gatens, from the Division of Water and Waste Management, takes advantage of a recent beautiful day to do some spring cleaning in the DEP rain garden, located in the front parking lot of the headquarters building.

The garden helps filter stormwater runoff from the agency's parking lot.

## CREEK

Continued from Page 6

characteristics conducive to habitats where fish can spawn.

Phase I of the Buffalo Creek restoration project cost \$300,000 and was paid for through a settlement between the DEP and a mining company, which directed the funds into the state's Stream Restoration Fund.

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Association formed several years ago amid a concerted effort to restore the stream, which empties into the Guyandotte River at Man.

Every year the watershed group sponsors a spring break fish outing, during which hundreds of area elementary school kids are given free rods and reels and encouraged to fish for a day in Buffalo Creek.



Pack's two favorite woods to work with are butternut (above) and poplar. He also likes black walnut, cherry and sassafras.

## HOBBY

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National Wild Turkey Federation.

Not bad for a guy who basically just "dove into" turkey call-making some 20 years ago.

"I thought, 'I'm going to try and make a turkey call.' I found a couple of calls I liked, dissected them and just started from there," Pack said.