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Tim Haapala, operations manager for the North Charleston sewage treatment plant, gives a group of Kanawha County middle and high school science and social studies teachers a tour of the facility during the DEP's two-day Project Wet workshop.

Educating the educators

Educating the educators

DEP reaches out to local middle, high school science, social studies teachers

By Tom Aluise

A group of area science and social studies teachers came away from August's Project WET workshop energized and full of new ideas for the school year.

Close to 40 Kanawha County middle and high school teachers participated in the two-day workshop, entitled "Man's Impact on Water." It was sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Management Program, with funding from the federal Clean Water Act.

Debbie Keener, of the DEP's Division of Water and Waste Management, speaks with teachers on the plant tour.

The workshop's goals included providing the teachers with hands-on instructional activities they could take back to the classroom. Field trips to a landfill, waste water treatment facility, water plant and Kanawha State Forest were also included to enhance the learning experience for the teachers.

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a national program for environmental education that "promotes awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through the development and dissemination of classroom-ready teaching aids and through the establishment of state and internationally sponsored programs," according to the Project WET Curriculum & Activity Guide.

Kanawha County partners with the DEP to periodically provide the popular Project WET workshop. Rosie Rhodes, the county's secondary science curriculum specialist, said spots for this year's workshop filled up quickly.

"The word is out about what a good work-

See TEACHERS, Page 6

Sandy Rogers has been with REAP's recycling grant program since 1998. Now, the Clay County native is in charge.

REAP grant program has new director

By Colleen O'Neill

After more than a decade of working for the Department of Environmental Protection's recycling grant program, Sandy Rogers is now heading it up.

"I've been with the recycling grant program since 1998, when I started working for the state," she said. "I've worked in whatever capacity was needed."

Rogers' new title is state coordinator for the REAP grant program. She is over the three grant programs and the one paper recycling program. They are the recycling assistance grant program, litter control grant program, state employees' office paper recycling program, and the new covered electronic devices manufacturer's registration and grant program.

"The new CED program is a work in progress, it's at the trial and error stage," Rogers said. "I intend to further the program, to grow it."

The recycling assistance grant is available to counties, municipalities, instrumentalities, and private entities interested in planning and implementing recycling programs, related public educational programs or to those who need assistance in market recycling efforts.

"The funding for these grants comes from a fee of $1 per ton of solid waste when disposed of at a state landfill," Rogers said. "County government and municipalities over 10,000 in population can receive $150,000 and private entities, instrumentalities and municipalities less than 10,000 in population can receive $75,000.

"Last year, we gave out $1.4 million in grants," Rogers said.

The litter control grant is a matching fund that assists municipalities and county government agencies with community cleanup and litter enforcement projects.

"Funding is provided for this grant through litter fines imposed on those who violate state litter laws," Rogers said. "The maximum amount of funding for a litter control grant is $3,000."

The covered electronic devices manufacturers' registration and grant

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The issues today aren't so simple

By Randy Huffman

Working for the Department of Natural Resources some 20 years ago, I instituted the cleanup program known today as Pollution Prevention and Open Dumps (PPOD). It remains a highly successful component of our Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) and is responsible for eliminating more than 13,000 illegal dumps across West Virginia.

Message from the cabinet secretary

Back in 1988, we figured we could spend a million dollars a year picking up trash but it wouldn't accomplish near what we could get done by involving and engaging the local communities.

Gov. Manchin talks a lot about that today. He describes it as having skin in the game. If you want the state to be your partner, we'll be your partner. But we're not going to be your provider. We should team up and work together to solve problems.

That's what we did 20 years ago. We would go into a community and spend state resources, time and money to help you clean up if you would bring something to the table — more specifically, members of your community who were willing to work.

What we believed would happen was the more people we got involved, literally with gloves and boots, on the hillsides picking up trash — the more sweat we could get out of a community — that would be an education in itself.

It's easy to take trash around your town and your homes for granted if you've lived with it your whole life. But when you get down to it, no matter how old you are, the education process begins when you start picking up trash and realize how ridiculous it is to litter. In an hour, you can teach a group of 6-year-olds more by having them gather trash than you can with all the classroom lectures in the world.

I am 100 percent convinced as I travel the state today, that West Virginia is five- to 10-fold cleaner in 2009 than it was in 1988. And I'm convinced that progress is a direct result of education. The generation we educated in the 80's is doing a much better job of managing its waste.

Today, the educational process for environmental issues is much more sophisticated. Picking up trash is low-tech. It's not rocket science. Now, we're starting to talk about water quality, water quantity, the

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EMS works for anyone

Average Joe can have an effective Environmental Management System

By Tom Aluise

Anyone can have an Environmental Management System, from a simple homeowner to a major corporation.

There are no good reasons not to have an EMS. The bottom line is it helps protect the environment and saves money. Who doesn't want that?

Whether it's the corner gas station, the house next to the station or General Motors, controlling environmental impacts and cutting costs are important.

For businesses, an EMS is a framework that helps them achieve environmental goals and improve their environmental performance through control of their operations.

"The basic thing we're trying to convey is that any organization can do an EMS," said Jeffrey Burke, executive director of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, who was in Charleston recently for a two-day EMS workshop at DEP headquarters. "It doesn't matter their size or what they do, because everybody has an impact on the environment.

"An EMS establishes a structure for addressing environmental issues within an organization as opposed to the running-and-fighting-fires approach.

"It's a more strategic, well-planned type of approach. You start with establishing what your environmental policies are going to be, looking at what your impacts on the environment are and looking at which ones are most significant.

"You establish a few key ones to work on and review your progress — how well are you doing, did you reach your goals and what changes or additional work do you need to do?

"Then, you look at your list and go 'OK, we addressed our top three. Now let's go for our next three or maybe something else has come up.' "

Burke's NPPR co-sponsored the EMS workshop, along with the DEP and Bridgemont Community and Technical College.

Marc Crouse, an environmental engineering specialist at Toyota's Buffalo facility, speaks during a workshop on Environmental Management Systems.

> ***"The management system gets everybody involved, from the people working on the front line all the way up to the CEO."***
>
> **Greg Adolfson**
> DEP sustainability officer

Matt Earnest, executive director of the Office of Workforce Development at Bridgemont, introduced workshop participants to the Riverside Sustainability Awareness Program Training and the concepts of sustainability.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing West Virginia (TMMWV) also participated in the workshop. Marc Crouse, an environmental engineering specialist at Toyota's Buffalo transmission facility, presented TMMWV's and Toyota Motor Corporation's (TMC) philosophy on the EMS concept and detailed how it's implemented at Buffalo.

TMC issued its earth charter and action plan in 1993 and revised it in 1996 to fall in line with the ISO 14001 EMS Standard. The Buffalo plant's EMS was certified as meeting that standard in 2000. The first transmissions at Toyota's Buffalo facility rolled off the assembly line in 1998.

Crouse said the Buffalo facility's environmental vision includes zero complaints and violations and minimization of environmental risks.

"We try to take things a little bit further to make sure we avoid future risks," Crouse said.

Crouse said the Buffalo plant continues to take steps to reduce its impact on the environment and has saved money in the process.

One simple change the plant made was to bypass city water, which it was using in its irrigation system to water its grounds. Now, watering is done by pumping it from the plant's storm water pond into its sprinkler system.

The Buffalo facility also uses other energy sources, rather than gasoline, to test its engines and made changes to its wastewater facility that allow it to treat coolant contamination. Before, the water had to be trucked off site for treatment.

The plant is also saving money and energy by converting to florescent lighting and recycles faithfully.

"We don't send anything to the landfill," Crouse said.

And that's not a bad policy for anyone.

"An EMS applies to you and me," said Greg Adolfson, sustainability officer for the DEP. "We can focus on our energy con-

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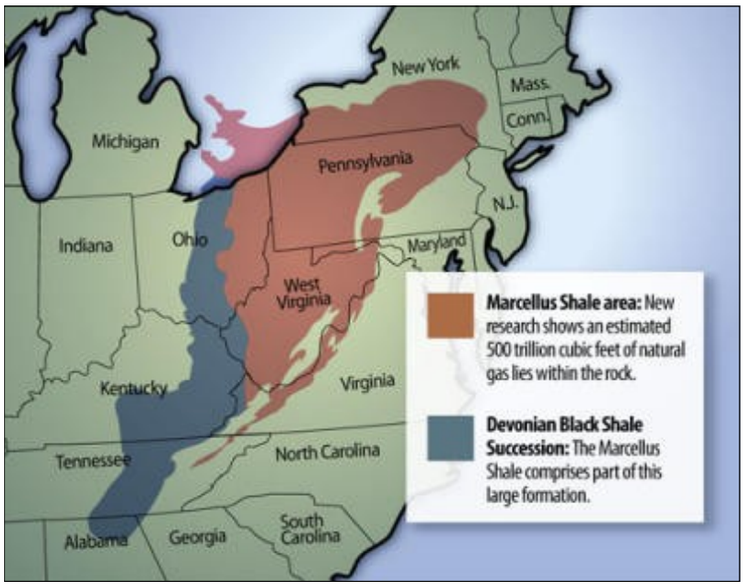
Bountiful Marcellus Shale keeping DEP office busy

By Tom Aluise



As a scientist, James Martin is intrigued by the Marcellus Shale.

As a regulator, well, that's another story.

"It's exciting from a geological perspective. It's not so exciting from a regulatory perspective," said Martin, who heads up the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Oil and Gas and owns degrees in geology from Marshall University and geophysics from Ohio University. "It's just a challenge. While we like challenges, some are difficult to overcome."

The Marcellus Shale is a vast rock formation that contains trillions of cubic feet of natural gas. It is found about a mile or more beneath much of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York.

Its potential as an energy source is enormous and its economic significance is far-reaching.

In fact, just last year scientists at Penn State and the State University of New York estimated that the Marcellus Shale could contain more than 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and that 10 percent of that gas (50 trillion cubic feet) might be recoverable.

How much is 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas? It's enough to supply the entire United States for two years and would have a wellhead value of about $1 trillion.

"I just read that potentially the Marcellus Shale has the largest gas reserves in the country," Martin said. "It does appear to have a considerable upside, which has a lot of people excited."

And busy.

Marcellus Shale drilling is the single biggest issue Martin and his staff are dealing with right now and, although permitting has slowed a bit in 2009, expectations are that it will pick up again.

The Office of Oil and Gas has issued about 700 permits for Marcellus drilling since last fall, Martin said.

High-yield drilling in the Marcellus Shale is a relatively new concept and only occurred after horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing — methods successfully applied in the Barnett Shale in Texas — were used by Pennsylvania companies earlier this decade.

Much of the Marcellus Shale play in West Virginia has occurred within the last two years and is relegated to the north-central portion of the Mountain State where the rock is thickest.

Still, it's an important issue to the DEP's Office of Oil and Gas.

And, as Martin knows all too well, it's an issue that involves components that are not only new to the industry, but confounding and controversial as well.

"The three main areas we're focused on are water use, water disposal and site construction," Martin said.

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EMS

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sumption at home. We can focus on the water we're consuming. We can focus on the waste we're generating.

"You apply that to a small, medium or large business and it's going to help them reduce their costs.

"They're not going to have high electric bills because they're going to find ways to reduce their consumption.

"They want to lower their transaction costs, they want to improve the quality of life within their organizations. They just want to make things better for the people who work there.

"So, the management system gets everybody involved, from the people working on the front line, all the way up to the CEO or the owner of the company. The success of the management system is just that.

"You've got to have top management commitment and you've got to communicate that all the way down to the lower-level employees."

Getting businesses and the general public to understand exactly what an EMS is is an ongoing project for Adolfson and the DEP.

"We're doing a lot of outreach and education with these workshops," Adolfson said. "People are walking away with some knowledge, with some skills and with more confidence in some of their abilities and about what they need to do when they get back to their business or school.

"It's probably the implementation side that is the toughest. Maybe we could come back later and help them with the implementation process."

BUSY

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A huge volume of water is used in the expensive hydraulic fracturing technique that extracts the gas from the ground.

In hydraulic fracturing, millions of gallons of water are pumped under high pressure into a shale formation to produce fractures, or cracks in the rock.

The cracks allow the gas to flow out of the shale to the well in economic quantities.

Martin's office, as well as the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Water and Waste Management, is concerned about where drillers are getting their water, how they're storing it and what they're doing with the contaminated water, called "frac fluid," after it is pumped back out of the well.

"They're involved quite a bit," Martin said of the DWWM.

"In fact, we're working very closely with them, nearly daily.

"Clearly, from the water use side and from the water disposal side, it' is as much their issue as it is ours."

The DEP in March developed an industry guidance "to assist well operators in planning for the drilling and operation of these wells and the associated need to dispose/ reuse large water volume fracture treatment wastes."

James Martin, chief of the DEP's Office of Oil and Gas, says Marcellus Shale drilling keeps his office busy.

Operators have several options to dispose of frac water, including permitted underground injection and transporting it to wastewater treatment facilities.

"The big thing we're starting to see now and something we're really excited about and hopeful that it will continue is treatment and reuse of the frac fluid," Martin said.

"That obviously helps with the potential impacts of withdrawing water to start with and the disposal at the back end.

"The disposal clearly has been voiced as a concern.

"We recognize it here as something we need to make sure we handle appropriately."

Another concern is where drilling companies are getting the large amounts of water needed for hydraulic fracturing and how much they're taking.

There are no state laws that set limits on water withdrawal from streams.

"At this point it's governed essentially by a position that's been taken in this agency by the secretary that you will not take more water from a stream than the stream can sustain," Martin said.

"That's been the message that's come from this office and the division of water.

"If you're taking water at a rate that's having that kind of impact on a stream, then you need to be somewhere else."

Another component of Marcellus play that Martin's office is focused on is site construction.

A rule change dealing with the construction of water impoundments is pending before the West Virginia Legislature.

Last December, DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman issued a directive to all gas well operators to immediately inspect large-volume structures associated with their operations.

"The (Marcellus) sites are bigger and the structures associated with the storing of water — the pits or impoundments — are much, much larger than we see in the normal course of drilling wells," Martin said.

"One of the things I think has raised some extra attention is you have this activity taking place where, historically, there hadn't been a lot of activity.

"So now you have a public not familiar with drilling, period, let alone this new type of operation with larger structures, larger sites and larger water withdrawals."

ROLE

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whole notion of climate change and carbon dioxide — what it is, what it does and where you stand on it.

At the Department of Environmental Protection, we play a pivotal part in that educational process and should embrace our role as educators. Not only are we in a position to educate and guide the public on complex issues such as carbon capture, alternative energy and sustainability, we're equipped, as well, to teach our youth about the changing environment.

Our Youth Environmental Program, for example, has been successfully reaching out to kids across the state for many years, providing them with the tools they need to make informed decisions about the environment and rewarding them for their accomplishments.

We can also bridge the gap to our younger generation through their schools and their teachers, who face the challenging task of adapting to and understanding our changing planet and passing that knowledge on to their students. Through programs such as Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), we can make the job easier for teachers.

And the more education teachers can provide — not indoctrination, but objective education — on the science of environmental issues, then those students, when they're leading our state and our nation, perhaps will engage in less politics.

So much of what we talk about today with climate change, fossil fuels and mountain top mining is political, not scientific. At the end of the day, good environmental policy needs to be based on science.

Of course, as educators we have to stay informed as well. The main thing I see on the horizon is the need for us to have a better understanding of the alternative energy industry. We must understand what that's going to be so we can be prepared to deal with it from a regulatory standpoint. The hardest thing for us to deal with is when we're not ready for something new, or we're not ready for change. Then, we get into a situation where we're reacting instead of influencing the change.

Whatever your trade is, you have an obligation to stay informed. Sometimes we get so busy we don't take the time to educate ourselves.

West Virginia American Water's Dave Peters gives Kanawha County science and social studies teachers a tour of his company's facility on Charleston's East Side.

TEACHERS

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shop it is," said Rhodes, who was involved with the last Project WET workshop four years ago.

"We'd like to make as many resources available to our teachers as possible," Rhodes said. "We want to expose our teachers to this curriculum so they can go back to the classroom and use some of these activities."

During workshop sessions at DEP headquarters, Rose Long, Project WET coordinator for the DEP, introduced teachers to various instructional materials, including the Project WET Curriculum & Activity Guide, and the Healthy Water, Healthy People Water Quality Educators Guide.

The guides feature a collection of hands-on, water-related learning activities for students in kindergarten through the 12th grade.

The activities incorporate various formats, from small-group learning to community service projects.

In one activity featured in the Project WET guide, students learn that as the infrastructure of sewage treatment plants age and population grows, treatment plants are unable to handle the increased flow of residential waste.

In another activity in the Healthy Water, Healthy People Guide, middle and high school students compare data to learn about the cumulative impacts of non-point source pollution.

Long had the help of several DEP employees in conducting the workshop including Mike Stratton, Ben Lowman, Nick Murray, Alvan Gale, Debbie Keener and Tom Ferguson.

"The workshop succeeds because we have an excellent staff here," Long said. "The presenters are so qualified and they provide so much good information.

"We conduct activities in the workshop as if the teachers are the students. The teachers can then determine if it's something that would work for them.

"If you can get teachers sold on this," Long added, "they'll keep using it. They'll be on board from the elementary level through high school."

Kelly Montgomery was one of three Andrew Jackson Middle School science teachers to attend this year's workshop. Montgomery teaches eighth-graders.

"I don't think you'll find three more hands-on people than us," Montgomery said.

"We know how much better hands-on projects work with students.

"We're always looking for new hands-on activities for kids and this workshop was really good about giving us some ideas. We're just trying to build up the science curriculum at Andrew Jackson.

"We're all three environmental people, so we like to build on what each other does from year to year.

"After you've had the three of us for three years, you'll leave school science-minded and environmentally friendly people."

Which is the whole idea behind Project WET, Long said — educating the people who have the power to change the behavior of today's youth.

"We want to create students who, as adults, make the right choices on how to live and how to use products," Long said.

AML work bringing better water to residents

More than 2,300 state residents will have access to better water through a series of projects under construction and being funded by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Abandoned Mine Lands program.

Close to $19 million in AML funding is being used for eight ongoing projects in Logan, Mingo, McDowell, Raleigh, Fayette, Monongalia, Kanawha and Webster counties.

The projects are:

Holden, Logan County – Replacing existing water system that was affected by past mining. Construction cost: $6.5 million. Customers served: 690.

Jolo/Paynesville/ Wolfpen, McDowell County – Extending water line. Construction cost: $3.1 million. Customers served: 130.

Miller Mountain, Webster County – Extending water line. Construction cost: $2.5 million. Customers served: 152.

Drews Creek/Peachtree Creek, Raleigh County – Extending water line. Construction cost: $2.1 million. Customers served: 74.

Amherstdale, Logan County – Upgrading water treatment plant to treat water affected by past mining. Construction cost: $1.4 million. Customers served: 1,200.

Sanderson/Dutch Ridge, Kanawha County – Extending water line. Construction cost: $1.2 million. Customers served: 38.

Ragland Area, Mingo County – Extending water line. Construction cost: $1.1 million. Customers served: 46.

Beauty Mountain/ Substation Road, Fayette County – Extending water line. Construction cost: $829,000. Customers served: 41.

Construction on six additional water line projects in

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Protecting the environment

West Virginia makes its case

West Virginia has gone above and beyond the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recommended water quality parameters for coal mining.

State has hundreds of regulations, statutes

■ **Editor's note:** This story first appeared in the August issue of West Virginia Executive Magazine.

By Kathy Cosco

West Virginia is a state known for its abundance of natural resources, some of which the nation uses to produce energy. Not only is 96 percent of the state's need for electricity met by coal-powered plants, much of the eastern portion of the United States is powered by the coal that is extracted here. In fact, the Washington Post reported in April 2008, that federal energy records show that 32 percent of the coal purchased by power plants in the Washington, D.C., area comes from West Virginia.

In the last two years, because new technology makes it feasible to do so, the oil and gas industry has expressed interest in drilling into the deep Marcellus Shale formation that extends from New York to West Virginia to extract natural gas.

The state is often the target of criticism because of some of the industrial activities that take place within its borders, and because it is often difficult to understand the complex and detailed laws that are in place to protect the state's environment.

But, despite the belief that West Virginia allows its resources to be used up without concern for the environment, the state has hundreds of regulations and statutes that require business and industry to be protective of the state's air, water and land.

In fact, in 1939, West Virginia was the first state in the nation to enact environmental laws to regulate coal mining. In the last 10 years, West Virginia has gone above and beyond the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended water quality parameters for coal mining by assigning

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Stimulus funding making a difference

By Tom Aluise

West Virginia's Clean Water State Revolving Fund was bolstered this past spring by millions in federal stimulus money.

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on Feb. 17 and infused $4 billion of stimulus funding into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's CWSRF.

West Virginia's CWSRF got $61 million of that total.

"Normally, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund gets about $1.2 billion a year nationally from Congress," said Mike Johnson, an assistant director in the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Water and Waste Management.

Johnson also serves as the program manager for West Virginia's CWSRF, which typically receives about $10 to $20 million per year in federal funding — in addition to state money — and closes on 12 to 15 loans for sewer and wastewater-related projects across the state.

Thanks to the $61 million stimulus allotment, 20 percent of which must go toward green infrastructure projects, West Virginia's CWSRF will close on loans for 29 projects in the 12-month stimulus period. Johnson said all 29 projects should be under contract by the February 2010 deadline.

"I would expect all of our projects will be under contract by the end of the calendar year," he said.

Johnson said because the stimulus money had to

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Litter Control grants awarded

Twenty-six applicants were approved for the Department of Environmental Protection's REAP Litter Control Matching Grants.

The grants, totaling $55,000, were awarded to state solid waste authorities, county commissions and municipalities.

Funding for the litter control program is generated through Legislative Rule §22-15A-4: "For unlawful disposal of litter, the circuit clerk shall deposit 50 percent of all civil penalties into the Litter Control Fund."

Here is the list of grant winners:

Village of Barboursville, $1,500.00 — Funding for dumpster fees for the annual village cleanup.

Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority, $1,500.00 — Funding for advertising for various solid waste collections and recycling events.

Brooke County Commission, $500 — Funding for litter education awareness.

Town of Burnsville, $2,500.00 — Funding for dumpster fees for the annual village cleanup.

Town of Cowen, $1,400.00 — Funding for rental of containers and dumping fees for a cleanup project.

City of Dunbar, 2,425.00 — Funding for gloves, safety vests and litter grabbers for a city block cleanup.

Town of Fayetteville, 2,000.00 — Funding for trash receptacles for Keep Fayetteville Beautiful.

City of Hurricane, $3,000.00 — Funding to raze unsightly structures to provide new opportunities for housing construction.

Kanawha County Commission, $3,000.00 — Funding for overtime for off duty deputies to issue litter citations.

Marion County Solid Waste Authority, $500.00 — Funding for brochures, litter bags and advertising for litter awareness.

Town of Mason, $3,000.00 — Funding to raze dilapidated buildings within the town's boundaries.

McDowell County Solid Waste Authority, $300.00 — Funding for advertising for Make McDowell Proud Day.

City of McMechen, $3,000.00 — Funding to raze unsightly structures and purchase trash containers.

Town of Meadow Bridge, $2,2025.00 — Funding for a town cleanup.

City of Milton, $3,000.00 — Funding to raze dilapidated buildings.

City of Nitro, $3,000.00 — Funding for litter cleanup for a section of the city.

City of Parkersburg, $1,150.00 — Funding for a newsletter on recycling and litter control.

Putnam County Solid Waste Authority, $1,500.00 — Funding for hauling and tipping fees for a local cleanup.

Raleigh County Commission, $3,000.00 — Funding for an annual fall cleanup.

Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority, $1,000.00 — Funding for advertising on litter education.

City of Shinnston, $1,500.00 — Funding for a year-round litter control program.

Tyler County Solid Waste Authority, $2,126.22 — Funding for a litter camera.

Wayne County Commission, $3,000.00 — Funding for litter control officer wages.

Webster County Commission, $3,000.00 — Funding for litter control officer wages.

Wood County Solid Waste Authority, $3,000.00 — Funding to purchase litter educational material and to raze burnt and demolished mobile homes.

Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority, $3,000.00 — Funding for litter control officer wages.

Karst conference set Sept. 14-15 in Shepherdstown

The Growing Communities on Karst 2009 Conference is scheduled for Sept. 14-15 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown.

The conference is being sponsored by the Potomac Headwaters RC&D and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

Karst is a limestone region characterized by sinkholes, underground streams, and caverns.

The underground conduits were formed by acidic rain water dissolving the limestone over thousands of years. The main theme in Karst regions is underground drainage.

This month's conference will include regional Karst basics; white-nose syndrome in bats; geological mapping in Karst terrain; a field tour; developing sinkhole probability maps; government roles and regulations; groundwater contamination; groundwater remediation techniques; and technical guidance.

The conference can be beneficial to watershed representatives, storm water facility managers, public works staff, transportation officials, engineers, developers, geologists, soil scientists, landscapers, urban foresters, consultants and concerned citizens.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. on Sept. 14-15. Costs are $100 in advance (includes two days, lunch, tour); $120 at the door (two days, lunch, tour); or $60 for one day only.

Registration is available by phone (304-267-8953, ext. 5) or by email: phrcd.6003@verizon.net.

AML

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six counties is scheduled to begin this fall. Approximately $22 million in AML funding will be used on projects in Wyoming, Fayette, Clay, Barbour, Nicholas and Preston counties. More than 1,200 customers will be served, including over 600 in Fayette and Wyoming counties alone, where $13.5 million in AML money will be used.

The AML program is funded by a fee placed on coal, currently set at 31.5 cents per ton for surface-mined coal and 13.5 cents per ton for coal mined underground.

The AML program's mission is to protect public health, safety and property from past coal mining and to enhance the environment through reclamation and restoration of land and water resources.

Joe Campbell, a senior vice president for WesBanco and a member of the WVU-Parkersburg Board of Governors, welcomes participants to a sustainable design charrette at the former W.T. Grant Building on Market Street in Parkersburg.

State builders thinking green

Still, W.Va. is playing catch-up in terms of sustainable design

By Tom Aluise

Adam Krason thinks West Virginia is making progress when it comes to applying sustainable design principles in construction and renovation projects.

Still, there's plenty of work to be done, he said.

"I would say we're playing catch-up at this point," said Krason, an architect and project manager for Charleston-based ZMM Architects and Engineers. "We don't have a Green Building Council in the state yet, although we're trying to set one up. And we don't have a lot of public incentives for green building.

"That's some of the reasons we're getting out there. The interest is there. It's just been a little slow to take root."

To Krason, "getting out there" is participating in workshops like the one conducted in early August at the Judge Black Annex in Parkersburg. Entitled "Putting Green Building Concepts to Work for You," the workshop was sponsored in part by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and Krason's firm.

Among the topics covered were the fundamentals and benefits of sustainable design; working in the green building industry; and funding sources and financial planning.

Area builders, property and business owners and public officials came together to learn about things such as relying more on natural daylight in their buildings; getting the most out of their heating and cooling systems; and improving the flow and quality of air in their buildings. Sustainable design principles are geared toward reducing energy consumption and improving the performance of the building and the people who work there.

"We're behind the ball a little bit on seeing these principles actually applied," Krason said. "I think people understand what the U.S. Green Building Council is and what the LEED designation is. But we're finding out there is a little bit of a learning curve for owners and contractors on what exactly the requirements are. But we're seeing a lot of contractors coming on board and participating in these workshops, which is great to see."

Greg Adolfson, sustainability officer for the DEP, said people

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Kanawha River cleanup scheduled for this month

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is sponsoring the 20th annual Great Kanawha River cleanup from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 12.

A rain date has been set for Saturday, Sept. 19, but will only be used in the event of serious weather issues such as lightning or high winds.

Various sites along the Kanawha River in Mason, Fayette, Putnam and Kanawha counties have been targeted for litter cleanup. Last year, nearly seven tons of trash were removed from the river and its banks.

Volunteers are urged to wear long pants, hard-soled shoes and work gloves and all volunteers will receive a free T-shirt. Children under the age of 18 should be accompanied by a parent or adult.

To register, contact Travis Cooper at 1-800-322-5530 or by email at Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov.

The DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) is coordinating the cleanup. REAP provides oversight of litter removal, recycling and open dump cleanups across West Virginia.

indepth

Joe Manchin III
Governor
Randy Huffman
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Corporate Cup champs ... well, some of them

A portion of the Department of Environmental Protection Corporate Cup team celebrated the DEP's eighth consecutive Cup title with a picnic at Coonskin Park in early August. Team members in attendance were (front, from left) Jay Fedczak, Amy Halstead, Rose Brodersen, Misty Nichols, Kathy Cosco, Daryl Huffman, Ed Hamrick and Dan Roberts. Back, David Keatley, Margie Skeens, Mike Egnor, Robert Keatley, Josh Woody and Rich Boehm.

NEW ADDITIONS

Recent DEP hires:

- Thomas Adkins, DMR, 7/1
- James Blankenship, OEB, 7/1
- William Hendershot, OOG, 7/1
- Ken Holliday, DWWM, 7/1
- Janet Napier, DMR, 7/1
- Joseph Taylor, OOG, 7/1
- Meredith Vance, DMR, 7/1
- Cherrity Ann Dickerson, Adm., 7/16
- Lana Piekarski, DMR, 8/3
- Thomas Taylor, AML, 8/16
- Jody Jones, OLS, 8/17
- John Kearny, DMR, 8/24
- Rebecca Mick, OLS, 8/24
- Philip Pack, DWWM, 8/24
- Karl Dettinger, DWWM, 8/24
- Nathan Lee Parks, DLR, 8/31

BUILDERS

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don't realize how their households or the buildings in which they work are producing materials that have an impact on climate change.

"How we operate a building is the biggest part of it," Adolfson said. "You can design a building to be green and you can build it to be green. But when you move in, everything can go south if you don't operate it to be green."

Adolfson said the time is right for workshops on green building concepts.

"We hear people out there asking 'How do I find out more about how to green my home, green my school or green the building we're getting ready to renovate.' There are proven principles out there and design specifications you need to look at."

At the end of the day, workshop participants used their new knowledge in a real renovation project when they toured the former W.T. Grant building on Market Street. The facility, now owned by WVU-Parkersburg, is targeted for redevelopment. Participants toured the building and took part in a sustainable design charrette, or brainstorming session, using the LEED Green Building Rating System as a guide.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a third -party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Developed 10 years ago by the Green Building Council, LEED promotes a whole-building approach to design by recognizing performance in five key areas of sustainability: environmentally sensitive site development; water efficiency; energy efficiency; materials selection; and indoor environmental quality.

Adolfson said the charrette was a hit and enough input and information was obtained to help with the actual renovation of the building.

"Everything was recorded," Adolfson said. "Now, we'll go to phase two. We'll do a charrette again with the design architect and the facilities and maintenance folks at WVU Parkersburg. They'll look at what everybody said. We gave it a score on the LEED rating system. So, we showed them that if you do all these things, you could be a silver certified LEED building."

Krason said various studies have proven the benefits of green building practices on employees and students. Workplaces and schools that are environmentally friendly yield more productive employees and students who are less likely to miss work or class.

"Studies have shown that when employees and students have access to natural daylight instead of electric light, their performance improves," Krason said. "Also improving the air quality in a building can improve the performance of employees and students."

Krason said using items such as low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint and green cleaning products contribute to a healthy environment indoors.

"That new building smell is not necessarily a healthy smell," Krason said.

Krason said a lot of his company's clients are in tune with sustainable building practices and strive to meet as many of those standards as they can. The American Institute of Architects, in fact, now stresses the importance of discussing sustainable practices with builders.

"It's not something we have to sell our clients on," Krason said. "It's something our clients are interested in pursuing. We're seeing a lot of leadership on the public side to incorporate these standards.

"If you can design something in a way that will improve the performance of the people working there and create a healthy environment, then sustainable design is good design. We want to advocate sustainable design. Luckily, a lot of our clients are interested in sustainable design principals."

A long way from home

DEP employees enjoy visits to Spain, Italy, where people watch the environment, too

By Colleen O'Neill

The mother-daughter bond spans time and in Melinda Campbell's case, Spain.

Melinda joined her daughter, Katelyn, on her school trip to Spain. Gone from July 8 to July 16, Campbell, 10 other adults and seven teens flew from Charleston to Atlanta, and after a layover, they flew to Madrid.

In Madrid, the Spanish adventure began.

"We started our trip by touring Madrid with a local guide," said Campbell, who works in human resources for the DEP. "We saw the grand palace, which has more than 2,050 rooms. It was fantastic!"

Spain is the home of many important events and people in history, among them, of course, Christopher Columbus.

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Melinda Campbell, left, and her daughter, Katelyn, stand in front of the Royal Palace in Madrid, Spain. At right, is one of the famous windmills of La Mancha that inspired the Cervantes' classic Don Quixote. Melinda joined her daughter's school trip to Spain.

Family time mixed in on trip

By Colleen O'Neill

Vacations can be spent visiting family or maybe seeing a new land. Kenna DeRaimo's vacation encompassed both when she visited Italy.

"I went with members of my family — there were 24 of us, in total," DeRaimo said. "We flew out of Dulles International Airport in Virginia to Venice, Italy on Aug. 1 and we flew out of Rome, Italy on Aug. 11.

"My cousin made arrangements through a travel agent — we went to Venice, Florence, Pisa, Latina, and Rome.

DEP Administrative Secretary Kenna DeRaimo is pictured in front of the ancient Coliseum in Rome, Italy.

"We saw the leaning tower of Pisa," she said. "It's amazing that it's still standing. It started to lean during construction. They could never completely correct it. Periodically, they have to make corrections to it so it'll remain standing.

"We also visited the Sistine Chapel. It's awe-inspiring that one person could do that — it's breath-taking.

"Michelangelo painted 12,000 square feet of the chapel ceiling between 1508 and 1512. He had been asked by Pope Julius II repeatedly, until his refusal became a resentful OK."

After seeing the historical marvels, DeRaimo and her crew set out to visit family.

"My great grandfather and great grandmother came over (to the U.S.) when they were in their

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HOME
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"We visited the Land of La-Mancha, which was the inspiration for the Don Quixote story, and saw the old windmills," Campbell said. "On the way we also saw some new windmills and banks of solar panels for power generation.

"In Granada, we toured the Alhambra, which was one of the last regions in Spain to fall to the Christians.

"When conquered by Ferdinand and Isabella, it was the location where Columbus first approached the monarchs to finance his trip to the new world."

Campbell said Spain's buildings, sculptures and carvings were both elaborate and beautiful.

"In Toledo, which is a city that was founded in the B.C. time period, we saw the cathedral that was just beautiful, and the Alcazar, which is a fortress. We visited Segovia, including the castle there which is beautiful and really a fairy tale setting. We also saw the cathedral where Isabella was proclaimed queen."

> ***"You leave your key in the slot when you're in the room. When you leave, you take your key out and this turns everything off. It was really cool."***
>
> **Melinda Campbell**

Campbell said the public transportation system is quite good. The fast train runs all over Spain.

"It's a smooth ride, always on time — you could set your watch by it, and the food is good. The subways are always crowded and clean," Campbell said.

"One thing, though. There was graffiti everywhere. And not pretty pictures and wall murals.

"It was writing and symbols — gibberish.

"A real neat thing was there was no violence, you didn't have to worry about getting mugged or assaulted," Campbell added. "There was, however, the need to be cautious about leaving belongings around or if someone bumped into you. There were pickpockets, but no real fear."

Besides having some of the most beautiful and antiquated architecture, Spain is among those nations that have taken environmental steps toward saving energy.

"When I first went into my room and tried to turn on a light, it wouldn't go on," Campbell said.

"I asked a neighbor in the room next door, and they said I needed to put my key in the slot in the room's outlet by the door.

"A way to save electricity, you need your key to operate the lights and air. You leave your key in the slot when you're in the room. When you leave, you take your key out and this turns everything off. It was really cool."

TRIP
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20s," she said. "We stayed in a hotel, but we spent most of the time with my distant cousin, Fillimina, who is 91 and her extended family. She is the niece of my great-grandfather's brother. We visited her and her family in Sezze, Italy, which is about 40 miles south of Rome.

"Sezze is an old Italian town on top of a mountain with stone roads — like something you'd see in a movie," DeRaimo said. "She told how in the yard of her family there were grapefruit, tangerine, fig, and olive trees. For breakfast, the family would just go into the yard and pick some fruit. I never had figs before. I always thought they were hard, but they're not. They're actually quite good."

DeRaimo said she encountered environmentally friendly practices during much of her trip.

"Throughout Italy they have beverages in glass bottles. The kind you turn in for deposit. We should go back to doing that," she said.

"At restaurants and in the train stations, the restrooms had automated facilities. The water was controlled by a motion sensor, as were the hand blowers."

Hotels also practiced energy efficiency.

"In Rome, you had to put your key in a slot by the door to turn on the lights," DeRaimo said. "When you left the room, you'd take your key out and all of the lights shut off.

"In Latina, the air conditioner was set up that if you left the room for long, it would shut off."

ENERGY STAR Tax Holiday offers incentives

West Virginia is offering its citizens an added incentive to purchase energy-efficient appliances through the ENERGY STAR Tax Holiday.

From Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, West Virginians who purchase certain ENERGY STAR-qualified products will not have to pay the state's 6 percent sales and use tax.

Purchases qualify for the sales and use tax exemption if the purchase is for products that have been designated ENERGY STAR products by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, costs $5,000 or less, and are for non-commercial, home or personal use.

ENERGY STAR appliances offer more than just environmental benefits.

By using less energy, they lead to fewer emissions from power plants. And by using less water, they protect the nation's water supply, plus the consumer saves money.

The average American household spends about $2,200 a year on energy. With ENERGY STAR products, consumers can save more than 30 percent or more than $700 a year, with similar savings of greenhouse gas emissions.

The ENERGY STAR label is now on more than 60 product categories including major appliances, office equipment, lighting and home electronics.

DEP hands out honors

Employees of Month, Reward and Recognition

Two Department of Environmental Protection employees received honors from Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman during an Aug. 19 ceremony in the Coopers Rock Conference Room at the Charleston headquarters.

Another DEP employee was honored in a ceremony at the Logan office on Aug. 25.

June Employee of the Month Terry Meade is presented her award by Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman in Logan.

July Employee of the Month Teresa Weaver is presented her award by Randy Huffman in Charleston.

Sherry Wilkins is congratulated by Randy Huffman upon receiving a Reward and Recognition honor.

June Employee of the Month

■ Terry Meade, office assistant, DMR, Logan.

Meade performed her duties in a manner that exceeded expectations. She maintained the front desk reception and mail room, while learning the in-depth mine permit application organization and blue book processing for those mine proposals ready for directors' approval.

Her additional responsibilities were necessary due to an extended medical leave required by another Logan permit employee.

When initially approached about the additional duties, she immediately volunteered and recommended manageable solutions.

Huffman: "Terry's ability and willingness to learn and develop under sometimes stressful and demanding situations is an example for all employees."

July Employee of the Month

■ Teresa Weaver, administrative services assistant, Office of Administration, Charleston.

Weaver transferred from DHHR and immediately began fulfilling the duties of the DEP benefit coordinator by assisting employees with their insurance and retirement benefits. She also took on the important role of DEP wellness coordinator, both jobs keeping her extremely busy.

Along with the usual initiatives by the wellness coordinator such as blood drives and health fairs, she also had two successful years of "The Biggest Loser" program, which helped DEP employees lose more than 800 pounds in 2008 and more than 900 pounds in 2009.

She's also enlisted over 180 employees in the "Walking for Wellness" program.

Huffman: "Teresa accepts new challenges with enthusiasm and a positive 'can do' attitude.

"We are fortunate to have an employee who not only dedicates her time and energy for the benefit of the agency, but also truly cares about the well-being of her fellow employees."

Reward and Recognition

■ Sherry Wilkins, ERS III, DWWM, Charleston.

Wilkins recently completed writing the MS4 general permit and fact sheet for the Stormwater and Groundwater UIC Team.

She spent a considerable amount of time researching what other states were doing with their programs, along with consultation with the EPA.

She also researched the new and innovative technologies that are being used throughout the country with regard to low-impact development. Wilkins has been asked by the EPA to speak at the States Stormwater Conference to be held this summer in Philadelphia.

Huffman: "Sherry's outreach and compliance assistance to the MS4 communities goes well beyond what is expected. In addition, she also led the effort for the WVDEP rain garden, which will hopefully be used as a model for other rain gardens on state property."

CASE

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water quality-based effluent limitations that broaden the parameters regulated by mining permits, as opposed to technical-based limits used by other states.

The Department of Environmental Protection has implemented an anti-degradation policy to protect the state's high-quality waters and total maximum daily loads for impaired waters to prevent further impairment. The state is one of the leaders in the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3 in applying these requirements to industry.

In recent years, there has been growing concern over environmental impacts related to the underground injection of coal slurry into abandoned mines. Although studies by the EPA in the early 90s determined that the practice was not a high priority for further regulation, West Virginia regulates mine slurry wells through permits — which is a more stringent approach than required. Not only does the program request more reporting of data than the federal program, it has more limits on the materials used in the process.

After flooding damaged much of the southern part of the state in July 2001, the DEP developed a flood advisory task force to study what role mining might have in the severity of flood damage in extreme rain events. As a result of that study, the DEP recommended rule changes that were adopted by the legislature requiring companies to conduct a Surface Water Run-off Analysis for every new surface mining permit. A recent review by the Office of Surface Mining found that while there are things the agency should update, West Virginia regulations go into further detail than any other state.

In recent years, a water use survey was mandated that requires the Department of Environmental Protection to keep an inventory of the state's waters by requiring industries that use large volumes of water to report that use. This regulation applies to a variety of industries, including the oil and gas industry, which uses a great deal of water in the drilling process to fracture rock formations to release natural gas for extraction.

In addition to laws that govern mining, oil and gas and the chemical industry, there are environmentally related laws that regulate the local auto mechanic, dry cleaner, farmer and retail store. Small businesses are typically subject to air, water, solid and hazardous waste regulations. For example, an auto body shop is subject to hazardous waste regulations in the way that it disposes of its leftover paints and solvents, as well as its paint filters.

There are laws that regulate how the city you live in handles storm water and there are laws that regulate what is allowed in the state's landfills.

Looking to the future

Instead of reacting to a current situation and making laws in response, West Virginia's leaders are passing laws today that look ahead in an effort to address environmental concerns of the future.

With the ever-changing and growing technology market, West Virginia lawmakers recognized that as people invest in new technology, such as computers, televisions, mp3 players and cell phones, a plan must be in place for dealing with the outdated models.

In 2008, West Virginia legislators passed a law that requires producers of electronic devices such as televisions, radios and computers to either offer recycling for outdated and used products or pay a registration fee that would help the state provide electronic recycling opportunities for its citizens. The state is among 19 others, with Virginia and Maryland being the closest, to enact such laws.

In the 2009 legislative session, Governor Joe Manchin's proposal to boost alternative and renewable energy sources was passed and became law on July 1. The plan requires that 25 percent of the electricity sold in the state is to come from sources such as solar, wind, natural gas, biomass or synthetic fuel by the year 2025.

In addition, the governor introduced, and recently signed into law, a post-mining land use law that turns reclaimed surface mine lands into a resource to be used for development in areas of the state where flat land is scarce. The law requires coal companies to work with local or regional development authorities to ensure that after surface mining is completed, the land that remains can be used in a fashion that fits in with the development plan for the nearby community.

Meeting the economic and energy needs of society while protecting the environment in which it exists, requires pragmatic leadership by people who are willing to work together. It is business and industry that provides the jobs for West Virginians and a solid tax base upon which the state operates.

But it is a healthy environment that creates the quality of life that draws people to the state and makes them want to live here.

FUNDING

Continued from Page 7

be spent quickly, his staff sought mostly shovel-ready projects.

Finding enough of them in a timely fashion wasn't easy.

"We've all been on edge, pulling our hair out," Johnson said. "It's been crazy.

"When everyone found out there were great amounts of money available, including debt forgiveness capability, we became very popular. We started out with 100 projects on the drawing board. Of those, 58 got construction project drawings to us. Out of that, we ended up funding 29.

"So I have 29 communities really happy with us and an equal number of communities very disappointed they didn't get any of the money."

Johnson said the projects that were ready to break ground ultimately won out.

"Essentially we didn't choose the projects," Johnson said. "They chose themselves."

Bids have been opened on 16 projects with the remaining 13 set to open this month, Johnson said.

Communities will not be required to pay back any stimulus funding but will incur some debt on state money loaned from the CWSRF.

Johnson said there are three levels of debt forgiveness depending on sewer rates. "It is 50 percent, 70 percent and 100 percent," he said.

Eight projects have been granted full debt forgiveness, including a $3.4 million project in Kermit that includes the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility that will serve 342 people and improve the water quality in the Tug Fork River by eliminating a raw sewage discharge.

The EPA's CWSRF program has been around since 1987, when it was created by Congress to serve as a long-term funding source for projects that clean and protect the nation's waters.

The CWSRF funds a broad range of projects from wastewater systems to nonpoint source pollution control projects.

REAP

Continued from Page 2

program is to establish a registration process for manufacturers of covered electronic devices.

"The goal of this law is to determine if manufacturers have adopted or implemented a take-back/recycling program for their products that is free to the public," she said. "And to award recycling grants to counties and municipalities for recycling or other programs that divert covered electronic devices from the waste stream."

A covered electronic device is an electronic device that has a screen larger than 4 inches, measured diagonally.

"I know this sounds confusing, but just think of a television, computer or video display device," Rogers said.

"Manufactures are required to register, and if they don't they're fined. Registration fees collected are deposited in the covered electronic devices takeback."

Sandy Rogers is pictured with her husband, Gary, and daughters Samantha, 22 (left), and Rebecca, 17.

This fund is administered by the DEP. Expenditures from the fund shall be for grants for recycling or other programs that divert covered electronic devices from the waste stream.

"Only municipalities, county commissions or county solid waste authorities are eligible to apply for these grants," Rogers said.

Rogers officially moved into her new position on Aug. 1.

"I don't feel there was any candidate more deserving of this position than Sandy," said Danny Haught, who heads up REAP.

"Having been with the program for more than a decade, she's been active in many positions, so I feel secure in what she brings to the table.

"Because of her tireless work ethic, loyalty and commitment to the REAP recycling program, I am excited for the future of recycling in West Virginia."

Rogers is passionate about West Virginia and keeping it beautiful. Her true love, though, is her family.

"I have two daughters that I'm so proud of," Rogers said. "Samantha is the oldest, she's 22 years old. She has just started Marshall Medical School. My other daughter is Rebecca. She's 18 and is a freshman at Concord University. Both girls were valedictorians and presidential scholarship recipients with full tuition to Concord.

Her husband, Gary Rogers, works for the DEP in the sub-grants unit of fiscal services.

"I'm married to a wonderful man," she said. "I met him when the recycling program was with the Division of Natural Resources. We have been married almost four years.

"It is nice to be able to share my work and home life with someone who understands me and the work that I do for the state."

DEP compiling water quality data

The West Virginia DEP is compiling water quality data on the state's streams and lakes for its next Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

This report is developed by DEP and submitted to the U.S. EPA every two years as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

The next report is due in April 2010 and will be based upon water quality data collected through June 30, 2009.

In addition to data collected directly by the DEP, the agency will compile and assess water quality data collected by other persons, agencies, watershed associations, or permitted facilities. Send data to: Stephen.J.Studatler@wv.gov, (304) 926-0499, Ext. 1086, or Steve Young at: Stephen.A.Young@wv.gov, (304) 926-0499, Ext. 1042. The deadline to submit data is Sept. 30, 2009.

A data form is available to download at www.wvdep.org/wv303d. Documentation describing the collection and analytical methodologies associated with the data should be provided as it will help the agency assess data quality.

If data was subject to a quality assurance/quality control plan, submit it with the data. For an example of a QA/QC plan, go to http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/g5-final.pdf.

Although electronic data submission is highly preferred and encouraged, non-electronic submissions may be sent to the DEP at the Division of Water and Waste Management, Attn: Steve Young, 601 57th St. S.E., Charleston, WV 25304.

InDEPth briefs

DEP offers training in E-permitting

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Mining and Reclamation is offering free training in electronic permitting to industry members and consultants. The training sessions last approximately two hours and are set at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. They are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Dates and locations:

Sept. 30 — Pipestem Resort State Park

Oct. 7 — Stonewall Jackson Resort

Oct. 14 — Chief Logan State Park

Contact Amy Halstead at 304-926-0499 ext. 1484 or at: Amy.L.Halstead@wv.gov to schedule training.

Powerpoint tips being offered

Tips for a better Powerpoint presentation are scheduled for 9 a.m. on Sept. 22 in the Monarch Room. The class will last approximately two hours. Call Nancy Frazier at 926-0499, ext. 1556 to sign up.

CPR/AED first aid classes set in Oct.

Training in CPR/AED and first aid is scheduled for the final three Thursdays in October at DEP headquarters.

Another CPR/AED class is scheduled for Oct. 7. CPR certification is valid for one year and first-aid certification for three years. Call Tammy Canterbury at 926-0499, ext. 1669 for information.