

Christmas in January



Close to 800 Christmas trees were collected during the DEP's annual tree recycling event on Jan. 8 at the Capitol Market in Charleston.

The trees will be used in West Virginia lakes and streams to create fish habitats.

DEP staffers such as Travis Cooper (top) and Greg Rote (right) braved 20-degree temperatures and bone-chilling winds to help area residents unload their trees for a good cause.



Important work awaits us in session

By Randy Huffman

As we head into a new year, there are plenty of challenges ahead for the Department of Environmental Protection.

One of the biggest challenges awaits us right off the bat, in the 2011 legislative session, where



Message from the cabinet secretary

we'll attempt to negotiate and pass a quality regulatory program to address the increased horizontal drilling activity in West Virginia's natural gas industry.

There are many ancillary issues associated with the rush to tap into the lucrative Marcellus Shale, but probably the key components are water withdrawal and disposal.

Hydraulic fracturing techniques, used in combination with horizontal drilling to extract the gas, require millions of gallons of water and we must be diligent in protecting the state's aquatic resources while this activity continues.

Another key concern is the sheer size of Marcellus drilling opera-

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Jan. 21 marks 30-year milestone for mining

By Tom Aluise

Leading up to the passage of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1977, West Virginia was ahead of the game in land reclamation.

Then known as the Department of Natural Resources, the DNR's Reclamation Division was the regulatory authority for all surface mining and reclamation in West Virginia.

"We had the best program in the country and it was acknowledged as being the best," said Dave Cal-



The award-winning Mylan Park, not far from downtown Morgantown, was built on a reclaimed surface coal mine.

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Amy Halstead flies through the obstacle course as teammate Chris Daugherty (right) cheers her on during the annual YMCA Corporate Cup competition in July. The Department of Environmental Protection won its ninth straight Corporate Cup title.

The year in pictures

A look back at DEP happenings from 2010



Former Gov. Joe Manchin speaks to an enthusiastic Earth Day celebration crowd at the Clay Center in downtown Charleston in April.



The DEP's 2010 Youth Environmental Conference in the fall included a field trip to the USDA Science Center in Leetown.



February's National Wear Red Day, to raise awareness of women's heart disease, inspired this contingent of DEP red dressers.

More photos on next page

The year in pictures ... continued



Office of Oil and Gas inspector Bill Hatfield (right) speaks with a worker at a Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling site in north central West Virginia. OOG inspectors are staying busy as more and more drillers target the Marcellus.



Ex-strong man champ and Charleston native Phil Pfister made an appearance at Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day in April at DEP headquarters.



Current and past DEP Fiscal Services staffers are honored by former Gov. Joe Manchin for saving the state money.



The Farmer's Market at DEP headquarters is a hit at lunch.



Smokey Bear took time out from Earth Day events at the Clay Center to pose with the DAQ's Gene Coccari.



Eager DEP employees line up for H1N1 vaccinations in March.

Educating the managers

Editor's note: This story first appeared in West Virginia Executive magazine. It is being reprinted with permission.

By Melinda Campbell

Management and Human Resources staff like to think our training dollars are a good investment in our employees.

At the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, we are also always cognizant that we're spending taxpayer money, so we want



Campbell

the very best value from our expenditures.

For a long time, we thought we were right on track with our training programs. Then, in 2008, we heard rumblings from our managers about how complicated it was to meet their mandated management training requirements. So, we decided to make some changes.

The State Division of Personnel (DOP) requires all state managers to take seven specific courses offered by the Organization and Human Resources Development (OHRD) section of DOP. Six of these courses must be completed in the first 12 months after an employee becomes a supervisor/manager. Each supervisor/manager is then required to complete 12 classroom hours of con-



WVU Center for Executive Education perfect fit for DEP

tinuing education training per year. These credits can be obtained through OHRD or from an outside opportunity approved by the employees' agency.

The rumblings started because our long-term managers had mostly completed all of the courses OHRD had to offer, and were finding it difficult to locate high-quality, cost-effective training to meet their continuing education requirements.

Those rumblings made us think about alternatives to having managers find their own continuing education courses. And once we started thinking about that, we started thinking about other reasons we might need a more consistent training program.

We decided that, for

continuing education credits, it would benefit the DEP to develop its own training program to assure that managers are receiving high-quality training that meets the specific needs of the agency.

Our demographics also pointed to a significant increase in turnover across the department, including in our management staff.

In reaction to that trend, we wanted to incorporate at least one course for employees who wanted to explore their interest in managerial positions, which would help us prepare to face the wave of retirements that was quickly approaching.

We also wanted to assure that the continuing education our managers

complete provides a set of consistent skills that managers can apply to managing their programs and their people.

In addition, we wanted managers to have some input into the courses that would be offered.

I looked through professional publications, conducted internet searches and reviewed information from mailing lists and found a wide variety of organizations and private companies that we might partner with to offer this training to our managers.

I was not entirely pleased with any one of them. Many were out-of-state universities or companies and many were cost prohibitive.

When I found the West

See MANAGERS, Page 5

Putnam County SWA honors DEP staff

By Tom Aluise

Department of Environmental Protection staff members were recently honored by the Putnam County Solid Waste Authority for their outstanding service to the county's needs.

Chris Cartwright, who works in the Rehabilitation Environmental



Cartwright

Cindy Musser and her Teays Valley Environmental Enforcement

Action Plan (REAP) program, was presented the Gary Persinger Award by Putnam County's SWA. Also, DEP Environmental Inspector Supervisor

group were honored as the Environmental Group of the Year.

The late Persinger was a member of the Putnam SWA Board and an award was established in his name in 2008 to honor an individual who's done outstanding environmental work in the county.

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Stepping into big shoes

By Tom Aluise

Replacing someone who has 37 years of state government experience is a daunting task.

“That will probably be my biggest challenge,” said Kathy Emery, who succeeded Mike Johnson as head of the DEP’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program. “I’m glad he’ll be staying on until this spring to help me.”

Emery, a 16-year DEP veteran, managed the engineering section of the CWSRF the past five years. Division of Water and Waste Management Director Scott Mandirola named her to replace Johnson in December. An assistant director in the DWWM, Johnson had been the CWSRF’s program manager since its inception 20 years ago. He will help Emery with the transition into her new post and then retire in April.



Kathy Emery took over for Mike Johnson in December as program manager for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Johnson said Emery was the perfect choice to take over the program. “Kathy has worked her way up. She was selected to head up the engineering section and this is the next logical step for her. Hopefully, she’ll be here the next 20 years.”

The CWSRF uses state and federal funding to issue low-interest loans for water quality improvement projects in municipalities, public service districts and other entities. In the past 20 years, over

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MANAGERS

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Virginia University (WVU) Center for Executive Education, everything came together.

What the center offers is high-quality training, tailored to our needs, which is also cost effective.

It also offers a partner who consistently provides great service and remains flexible as we move forward with the program.

The WVU staff worked with me to develop course offerings using the results of a manager survey conducted by WVU in the fall of 2008.

As a result of the work we’ve done with WVU, we now have in place a two-year, six-day program for current managers and a one-day course for employees who are interested in moving into management.

The DEP now utilizes this program to help us meet the goal of building the most talented management force in state government, at a reasonable cost to the agency.

The course compo-

nents include: Management vs. Leadership; Learning your Leadership Style/Developing Effective Leadership Styles; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Communicating for Results; Interviewing and Selection; Building Innovative and Effective Teams; Delegation, Power and Empowerment; Developing Employees through Coaching; Motivation and Retention; Performance Management; Managing Conflict and Dealing with Challenging Behavior 1& 2.

Through this program, each manager secures a Supervisory Skills Certification over a two-year period. This approach offers flexibility, as all managers have access to the full suite of courses from the Supervisory Skills Certification Program.

They can take these courses at their convenience, completing at least six half-day courses per year, for a total of three days of training, until certification is completed (two years).

Currently we are offering each course at least

three times per year and find this schedule to meet the needs of our management staff.

While there is a preferred order for these courses, managers may take the classes in the order that best suits and at times most convenient to them.

Managers who wish to do so can move forward with completion of certification on a stepped-up schedule.

They can then move on to additional stand-alone courses to meet yearly continuing education requirements.

In 2010, we had the first round of graduates from the certification program and we couldn’t be more pleased.

Managers comment that they find the training to be very useful in developing them as managers and they’ve found the instructors to be absolutely excellent.

As an agency, we’re seeing managers more willing to apply the skills they’ve learned in the classrooms to the everyday work of a manager.

We also believe that, by

holding classes with a mixture of managers from throughout the agency, we’ve allowed our management staff to meet, interact with, and build good business relationships with others they might otherwise only meet in passing.

These relationships will allow us to work smarter over the long term.

As we move forward with the program, we’ll begin the process of developing two stand-alone classes each year to provide additional continuing education for managers.

We plan to survey management staff again to see what it thinks would be most useful and develop additional courses around the findings of that survey.

Because of the exceptional service that the Center for Executive Education has provided, we are also exploring an option to partner with them once again to provide environmental law education to employees who work in our inspector classifications and to use the center to further develop other employees.

BIG

Continued from Page 5

\$750 million worth of loans have been issued for 263 projects across the state. Many of the projects extended sewer service to West Virginia residents for the first time.

“I’ve always loved working in this program,” said Emery, a Raleigh County native and West Virginia University engineering graduate. “We don’t issue any permits and we don’t enforce anybody. I enjoy seeing things get fixed and corrected. And I like being a part of making that happen.”

During fiscal year 2009, West Virginia was one of 10 states recognized by the U.S. Envi-



Mike Johnson, center, was on hand during a reception at DEP headquarters last year for DEP staff, consulting engineers, accountants and other state officials associated with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

ronmental Protection Agency for its highly effective management of the CWSRF. Also, this past June, the U.S. House of Representatives’ Committee on

Transportation and Infrastructure praised West Virginia’s CWSRF for quickly putting to use \$61 million in federal stimulus dollars targeted for wastewater

infrastructure projects.

Johnson, of course, was a big part of those successes.

“Mike has run an outstanding program for 20 years and has provided a service to the public by getting sewer systems into places that otherwise would have never gotten them,” DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman said. “Mike’s been honest. He’s been accountable and the program is a tremendous feather in his cap. The DEP, as a result of Mike’s efforts, has a tremendous reputation of being very good at managing our Revolving Fund. And I believe under Kathy, that same kind of management style and integrity will continue.”

DEP employees contribute generously to charities

By Colleen O’Neill

Some friendly competition spurred on the employees of the Department of Environmental Protection in their efforts to help the less fortunate in West Virginia during the holidays.

The second floor of DEP’s headquarters in Charleston was triumphant in contributing the most toys to the Toys for Tots program, sponsored by the Marine Corps.

The first floor contributed the most food to the Mountain Mission campaign.

“We ended up with

quite a bit to give to the Mountain Mission and the Toys for Tots charities,” said Teresa Weaver, coordinator of DEP’s Wellness Program.

Two bins were placed at each elevator, one for food and one for toys, making a total of six locations and 12 bins on the Charleston headquarters’ three floors.

“There was a tight race for the food drive between the first and second floor,” Weaver said. “The toy bins on the second floor were overflowing. All of the bins were filled.”

Weaver said Toys for Tots was chosen be-

cause it allowed people to buy just one toy and feel like they contributed.

“With the economy being like it is and people not having a lot of spare cash, this was a better fit,” she said. “In the past, we did Secret Santa, which requires you to buy three toys, usually specified, for the child. The clothing and shoe sizes were usually included, and most people felt like they should get the child a jacket or boots for the cold weather. This was usually more costly.”

This is the second year DEP has partici-

pated in Toys for Tots and the fourth year for its involvement with Mountain Mission.

“There are many wonderful organizations out there that really help those less fortunate, like the Union Mission and the Salvation Army,” Weaver said. “We chose Mountain Mission because it’s a trustworthy organization that provides assistance to families locally — the contributions do not go to other locations.”

How did this year compare to past years?

“Our employees never

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STAFF

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Cartwright, who also won the Gary Persinger Award in 2008, received his latest honor at the SWA’s awards dinner in mid-December.

The SWA’s declaration reads:

“Chris Cartwright has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the improvement of the quality of life in Putnam County; has always as-

sisted the Putnam County Solid Waste Authority in a cheerful and resourceful manner; has always demonstrated the highest degree of community involvement; and exemplifies the life of Gary Persinger.”

Cartwright said REAP is active in assisting the county in various needs, from helping organize cleanups to providing the supplies to successfully carry out those cleanups.

Cartwright said he appreciates the honor from the SWA, adding that it’s nice to be noticed. But he also said recognition is not a motivating factor in doing his job.

“The way I look at it, there’s really no need for special recognition for doing what you ought to be doing,” Cartwright said.

Charity Fellure, executive director of the Putnam County SWA, said Musser and her

staff have shown “outstanding dedication to the county” and have been easy to work with.

The SWA’s declaration reads:

“Cindy Musser and DEP’s Enforcement Group provided significant contributions in terms of time and energy to perform services consistently above average, often reaching beyond normal range to fulfill responsibilities toward Putnam County.”

DEP retirements

Rodney Dillon

OOG
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 26

Wilma McKown

DWWM
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 14

Charles Combs

DMR
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 33

Gregory Ball

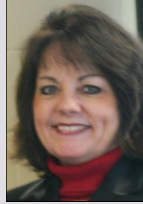
DMR
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 14

Gregory Henger

DWWM
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 32

Glena Shaffer

DWWM
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 29



Sandy Humphreys

DMR
Last day: Dec. 30, 2010
Years of service: 35

Humphreys says: The majority of my life has consisted of employment with West Virginia’s mining regulatory agency. On Dec. 17, 1973 I started my first day of state employment with DNR’s Parks and Recreation. After five months, in May of 1974, I accepted a position with the Division of Mining and Reclamation and, with the exception of a nine-month period when I tested the waters of private industry, I have not worked anywhere else.

On Dec. 17, 2010 — exactly 37 years later — I retired from DEP. There are so many memories to take with me — stories I could use to write a book and it would no doubt be a best-seller!

God has blessed me so much more than I deserve and I thank Him for the wonderful experience I have had, the various positions I have held, and the many friends I have made. There is no doubt for me that it is time to begin the next phase of my life.

Since I have never “not worked” it will be a life I’ve never known, but I know I will keep busy and plan to enjoy each day God gives me.

I will miss so many things — the people, the “routine” of Monday through Friday, and even the work. And I truly want to express my thanks to those who have been a part of my life the past 37 years and for the current friendships of those who I will be leaving.



October Employee of the Month

Dan Lehmann, left, an inspector specialist with DMR out of Philippi, is pictured with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman. Lehmann was honored for being proactive in his dealings with the public’s concerns about a certain project in his area. He has gone the extra mile in every aspect and spends extra time addressing the public’s concerns. He has made time to visit homes and has made certain the mitigation projects were reconstructed correctly, while working diligently to make certain all aspects of the project were being followed.



December Employee of the Month

Darlene Nestor, left, a secretary in the DLR’s Philippi office, was honored for bringing a degree of energy, commitment, flexibility and professional conduct to her job, while providing necessary support to everyone on staff. She has been extremely critical to the success of the day-to-day operations of the office. The quality and quantity of work that she produces on a daily basis is exceptional by anyone’s standards. She performs these tasks with enthusiasm and exemplary team spirit.

MINING

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laghan, who was state DNR director from 1977-84 and later the director of the Division of Environmental Protection. "We had eliminated highwalls by statute long before the federal law (SMCRA) was passed. And we had a really good, dedicated, hard-nosed group of inspectors."

Other states weren't as diligent as West Virginia in limiting the environmental effects of surface mining, so in 1974 and 1975 Congress passed measures aimed at further regulating the industry. President Gerald Ford, concerned about how the legislation would affect inflation and the nation's energy supplies, vetoed both bills.

On Aug. 3, 1977, however, President Jimmy Carter signed SMCRA into law despite strong objections from the coal industry.

Among other things, SMCRA created the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) within the Department of the Interior to promulgate regulations and ensure consistency among state programs. SMCRA also shifted most regulatory authority of underground mining from the state Department of Mines to the DNR.

For West Virginia regulators, the stroke of President Carter's pen marked the beginning of a sometimes tumultuous four-year process to either develop or revise state mining laws, regulations and procedures that were at least as strict as the new federal standards imposed by SMCRA.



A bear munching on berries mugs for the camera on reclaimed Fola Coal Co. land near the Clay-Nicholas line.

Later this month, the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Mining and Reclamation will mark the 30th anniversary of the culmination of that four-year task, which began in 1977. On Jan. 21, 1981, West Virginia's permanent regulatory program was approved by the Department of the Interior and the state DNR was granted immediate primacy over mining.

The DEP will hold a reception at its Charleston headquarters on Jan. 27 to commemorate that important day.

"This is an exciting anniversary for the Mining and Reclamation group," said Benny Campbell, a 30-year DMR veteran and now an assistant director.

"The positive impacts that this division has had over the years and continues to have in its efforts to protect West Virginia's natural resources and its citizens affected by surface coal mining is second to none in this country," Campbell said.

"DMR folks are very active with local, county and state agencies in

their efforts to promote real time post mining land use. Other connections with our customers include involvement with local watershed groups, various speaking engagements with schools and civic groups, assistance in fish stockings of local streams, promotion of stream restoration projects throughout the state, participation in Earth Day activities at various mine sites and flood control cleanup coordination, just to mention a few."

The seeds of DMR's success today were sewn in the early 1970s, Callaghan said.

"Between 1970 and 1975, West Virginia's reclamation program really came into stride and was producing outstanding land reclamation," Callaghan said. "And it was in really good shape when I took over in 1977. I inherited a really strong reclamation program, which gave us a lot of credibility in getting early approval under SMCRA."

DNR had jurisdiction over mining until 1985, when the state Department of Energy was deemed the regulatory

authority in West Virginia. Beginning in 1991, the Division of Environmental Protection and ultimately the Department of Environmental Protection became the regulatory agency.

John Ailes was the assistant chief of Inspection and Enforcement for the DNR's Reclamation Division when SMCRA was passed and heavily involved in developing the state's interim program guidelines and bringing the state's permanent program up to federal standards. Then, there was the arduous task of modifying existing permits to reflect SMCRA's rules or issuing permits for the first time to pre-existing facilities that now had to be regulated by the state.

"We spent two or three months doing nothing but writing regulations and getting the program package ready," said Ailes, who later became the head of the DEP's Mining and Reclamation office. "It was a pretty intense period of time. We put that regulation package together without any outside (industry) influence whatsoever."

"We were going to write our rules for West Virginia and what we thought were the most important things that needed to be addressed. Ultimately, they had to be as stringent as the federal rules. It just took us a little while to get there. In the end, we got it."

"The funny thing is, other than adding facilities we weren't used to regulating, the real impact on surface mining

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CHARITIES

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cease to amaze me with their generosity, especially where children are concerned," Weaver said. "The toy donations exceeded those of last

year. Many children had a much-blessed Christmas, thanks to DEP's employees.

"Our employees are all special folks."

In addition to collections in the Charleston headquarters, the Oak

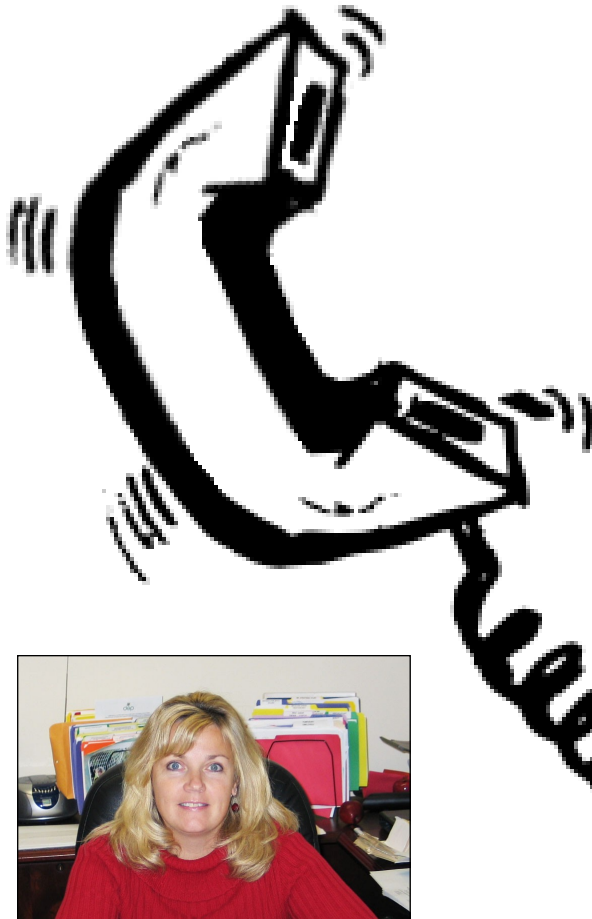
Hill office participated in the New Haven Christmas Project, which aids less-fortunate families in the New Haven District of Fayette County and the Logan office was involved in the Shriners Hospital Teddy Bear

Drive.

The Fairmont office is currently collecting donations and items for both the Marion County Humane Society and the Marion County Soup Opera, a local homeless shelter.

'DEP voice' is always on call

By Colleen O'Neill



A soothing and gentle voice, while being pleasant to the ear, can instill trust and acceptance. Debbie Hughes, an administrative services manager in Human Resources, has such a voice. She can be heard on the automated answering message on the Department of Environmental Protection's main telephone line.

"I feel honored that I am the first voice our employees, as well as the public, hear when they call the DEP's automated numbers," Hughes said. "I have always enjoyed working for DEP and have so much respect for what our employees do, whether they are out there in the field or here in the office, that I feel honored now that I was asked."

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Debbie Hughes, who works in Human Resources, was asked to lend her voice to the DEP's automated answering message when the agency moved to Kanawha City.

DEP contributes \$1,490 to Combined Campaign

By Colleen O'Neill

State employees at the Department of Environmental Protection had a jolly time while they raised money to help the disadvantaged in West Virginia through the state Combined Campaign.

Fundraisers included everything from an auction to jeans days to payroll deduction. A total of \$5,210.26 was raised.

"We raised \$1,490.26 from our blue jeans Fridays and cash or check contributions," said Melinda Campbell, coordinator of DEP's contribution to the Combined Campaign. "The employees at the Charleston headquarters seemed to really like Friday jeans days. It seemed like there was a non-stop attempt to get jeans tickets on Friday."

Some offices had events, including a lunch auction, to raise money. After their Christmas luncheon, members of the Office of Administration and Executive Office bid on wrapped presents that were bought by their co-workers.

"We raised \$426.26 from the lunch auction," Campbell said. "It was a lot of fun. It was entertaining to watch the employees get into a bidding war over a present, and the funny thing was they had no idea of what it was they were bidding for."

Gifts included a heart-shaped picture frame that could be engraved, an automotive back cushion that had heat and massage, decorative towels, a \$25 gift certificate to Elder-Beerman and scented lotions and creams.

"One employee paid \$15 for a wall plaque with a fish that moved on it. He was a good sport about it," Campbell said.

indepth

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VOICE

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Hughes accepted the task of lending her voice to the DEP when the agency moved into its new Kanawha City headquarters.

“John Dunlap, who used to be in the Information Technology Office, asked me about being the voice of DEP shortly after moving to the Kanawha City location in 2004,” Hughes said. “He begged me to do it because he had asked a couple of other

employees and they had said no. He was in a crunch to get the new automated phone system set up in the new facility. I told him I would do it, but I figured no one would know it was me, anyway.”

Boy was she wrong.

Hughes’ comforting voice is definitely recognizable. And her job requires her to talk with many people and spend much time on the phone.

“At first, I would deny it when folks asked me

about it,” she said. “But since then, there have been so many employees who would say, ‘Oh, you’re the voice on the DEP answering machine.’ I usually just say, ‘Yes, it’s me.’ I really don’t mind and sometimes it is a good conversation starter.”

Hughes can also be heard on an after-hours recording that differs from the daily message.

“This recording is a little longer because it requires additional information about reporting emergencies to the

spill hotline,” Hughes said. “It allows for folks to leave a message so that someone can return their calls during regular working hours.”

“I had to record it three times to get it right, and I still think it needs some work.”

So, what’s next for Hughes and her voice? Hollywood? Disney?

“I would love to go to California or New York, but I don’t think I will be quitting my day job anytime soon,” she said.

WORK

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tions. Because drillers are disturbing so much more land than they do in traditional gas exploration, it’s imperative that we have effective sediment and erosion control plans and that drilling sites are stable.

Of course, to do all of this we absolutely must have more inspectors and staff in our Office of Oil and Gas to adequately oversee the industry and to ensure that regulations are being followed.

As equally a top priority in the coming year, although not as immediate, is the DEP’s lawsuit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency over the EPA’s recent handling of mining permits in Appalachia. The EPA developed

... To do all of this we absolutely must have more inspectors and staff in our Office of Oil and Gas to adequately oversee the industry and to ensure that regulations are being followed.

all of its new water quality guidance documents and so-called standards for the mining industry totally in a vacuum and void of any interaction with us.

We’re hopeful that if we can be heard in front of a neutral party, the EPA’s aggressive agenda will be stalled and more policy-level debate on what should and shouldn’t be allowed will ensue.

Again, this won’t be resolved in the next 12 months. And there is

some thought that the political change in Washington has the potential to impact the flavor of the debate. I can’t predict how that will happen. It remains to be seen.

What is certain, though, is that ongoing litigation on multiple fronts with regard to mining permits in West Virginia must be managed consistently by the DEP in order to improve the state’s case in federal court against the EPA.

With a new year comes a renewed vigor in carrying out our first priority at the DEP, protecting the environment.

But we must continue to work hard to accomplish that in ways that allow West Virginians to keep their jobs and the state to maintain its economic vitality.

I think there’s often a perception by those who consider themselves environmentalists that focusing on jobs means sacrificing the quality of the environment.

To me, that’s a huge misconception. The instructions and the words I hear from Gov. Tomblin — and that I heard from former Gov. Manchin for a long time — are that we can preserve jobs and protect the environment. And we should be doing both.

Park honored by AML group

The National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs recently awarded former Department of Environmental Protection staffer Pat Park the Dave Bucknam Award for Park’s contributions to the Office of Surface Mining’s National Technical Training Program.

The award is named in honor of Dave Bucknam, the former Colorado AML administrator, who had a passion for training and believed the most successful AML programs had the best trained staffs.

Park, who retired from the DEP in October, has been teaching AML courses for almost 20 years and has been instrumental in developing and teaching the pilot technical courses, including Mine Fires, Dangerous Highwalls and Subsidence.

Even though he’s retired, Park plans to continue teaching new AML program staff.

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Charles Armstead, DWWM
- ▶ Lynn Calhoun, DMR
- ▶ Thomas Fultz, DMR
- ▶ Henry Jason Harmon, DWWM
- ▶ Timothy Holstine, DMR
- ▶ Kenneth Stewart, DMR
- ▶ Richard Ryan Vance, DMR
- ▶ Nathaniel Walker, OLR

DAQ exhibit highlights solar

By Tom Aluise

The positive things being done for the environment in Wyoming County's schools are making their way to the halls of the State Capitol, thanks to the Division of Air Quality's outreach team.



Wednesday, Jan. 19

During DEP Day at the Legislature on Jan. 19, the DAQ's information booth will include a display highlighting uses of solar power in West Virginia. Part of the display will feature a class project at the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center in Pineville.

Students in a renewable energy education class there are building and eventually will install at the Center solar panels expected to save close to \$1,600 per year in energy costs.

Part of a \$45,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Schools program is being used to fund the project in Dan McKinney's class.

The system will include a utility management tool that allows students, teachers and administrators to track energy consumption around the clock through real-time data.

The DAQ's Stephanie Hammonds and Gene Coccari visited Wyoming County's Career Center recently, where they spoke with McKinney about the Center's solar power project.

"When we came back from Wyoming County, I had a kernel of an idea and sat down with the DAQ outreach team," Coccari said.

Coccari's "kernel of an

idea" popped into a full-fledge plan to spotlight solar power across West Virginia as part of the DAQ's exhibit during the 2011 legislative session.

"We found several solar projects around the state but we're going to showcase six," said Jeanne Chandler, who coordinates the DAQ outreach team.

The FMC Sportsman Club in Putnam County, where solar panels heat the swimming pool, and the Book Exchange in Morgantown, where panels are used to produce electricity, also will be highlighted in the display.

McKinney is excited Wyoming County's efforts will be recognized.

"This will be a good thing for my students and a great way to make our legislators aware of alternative energy projects throughout West Virginia," he said.

"I am proud of the work my students are doing on this and appreciate the opportunity for them to be included in this display."

The Career Center's solar power project is only a slice of Wyoming County's commitment to making its 14 schools energy efficient. The

county, in fact, has been recognized as an ENERGY STAR Leaders Top Performer, which signifies outstanding advancement in the energy efficiency of buildings and subsequent cost savings. Eight of Wyoming County's school buildings carry an ENERGY STAR label, the second most of any county in the state.

That fact piqued Coccari's interest enough to schedule a visit this fall to southern West Virginia to learn more about what school personnel such as McKinney and Wyoming County Schools Energy Manager Terry Tilley are doing right.

Tilley is the brains behind the county's web-controlled energy management system, which allows a user online remote climate control of each school. The system works only as well as the user wants it to and Tilley is diligent in making sure energy isn't wasted in his schools.

As long as he has an Internet connection, Tilley can use a keyboard to control several different variables in the county's school buildings, as well as monitor everything from temperature to humidity to carbon dioxide levels.

"I always know in the morning before I leave my house where we have problems," Tilley said.

"This is what energy management is about," he added.

"We want to make sure everybody in this county is comfortable. It's another part of having a safe school environment." Since revamping its energy management system in 2004, Wyoming County has saved \$1.7 million in energy costs in its schools, Tilley said.

Upgrades have included installing more efficient heating and cooling systems and replacing old incandescent light bulbs with T-8 fluorescent lights.

In February 2010, Wyoming County schools Superintendent Frank Blackwell received a letter from the late West Virginia Sen. Robert C. Byrd offering congratulations on receiving the ENERGY STAR Top Performer honor.

"The Wyoming County Board of Education is setting a commendable example for our state and nation by showcasing the benefits of conserving energy and natural resources, while exercising sound financial management," the letter said.



The Division of Air Quality's Gene Coccari (left) takes a look at the solar panels being built by students at the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center in Pineville. Terry Tilley (white shirt) is the Energy Manager for Wyoming County Schools.

MINING

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itself didn't change that much. You have to remember that SMCRA was patterned partly after programs in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. We already had pretty strong laws. On the ground, we had a much better program than others and that was a product of good permit review and good enforcement. We expected you to behave yourself out there."

SMCRA added a whole list of variables West Virginia regulators didn't have before, including penalizing mining operators based on a "pattern of violations."

Under SMCRA, West Virginia lost its ability to instantly shut down a mine if it found problems.

"We had instant shut-down power by inspectors," said Pete Pitsenbarger, the DNR's chief of reclamation during the late 1970s and early 1980s. "We could stop an operation, get the problem fixed and get them back to work."

"We had to reverse all of our inspectors' thinking from instant shutdown authority to giving an operator a violation notice and an opportunity to appeal."

Ailes said, "A few of our hammers were taken away, but some others were added."

Callaghan said a key component of West Vir-



Twisted Gun Golf Course is constructed on a reclaimed surface mine in Mingo County.

ginia's new permanent regulatory program was the DNR's expanded jurisdiction over underground mining. And structures such as prep plants and refuse piles, which had little oversight before, were now being regulated by the state.

"That was a major, major step forward for West Virginia," Callaghan said. "From an environmental standpoint, it was like going from night to day. Back in that time, every stream in West Virginia was running black."

"They had no requirements for drainage systems for any of those underground mining complexes."

"SMCRA did some good things for us," Callaghan added. "It created the AML (Abandon Mine Lands) program and focused more attention on the hydrological problems associated with mining."

"In many ways, SMCRA was a water pollution con-

trol program. After that, there was a big focus on the effects of mining on the state's water resources."

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman said he noticed that focus on water heightening around 2005, when he became DMR director.

More emphasis in mining was being placed on the application of the Clean Water Act.

"The effectiveness of the mining program had always been measured against SMCRA, but the effectiveness was beginning to be measured against the Clean Water Act," Huffman said. "And that's where we are today. Water permitting issues have superseded mining issues."

In that vein, the DEP has collected close to \$20 million in penalties from coal operators over the past five years for water permit violations.

Callaghan said as a

whole, SMCRA improved West Virginia's regulatory function.

"I think we were overall better, if you look at the big picture," he said. "It made it a much more comprehensive program and a much more sophisticated program."

Gains are still being made today in the DMR.

West Virginia, for example, went beyond the scope of SMCRA's subjective guidelines regarding approximate original contour and developed its own objective criteria for evaluating when mined land has been returned to AOC.

Also, West Virginia's storm water runoff regulations, which help ensure that mining doesn't contribute to flooding, are stricter than federal standards and the DMR's electronic system for handling all mining permits has been used as a model for other states.

West Virginia also is a leader in the areas of reforestation and post mine land use.

In the last several years, the focus has been on restoring mined lands to native hardwood forests.

"In the last five or six years, 85 percent of acreage permitted has been permitted using the forestry reclamation approach," said DMR Director Tom Clarke.

Mine operators also are required to be sensitive to local needs in developing post mining land uses.

Recycling Grants ceremony



DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman awards a Recycling Assistance Grant to Canaan Valley's Sandy Swadley during a ceremony at DEP headquarters. Grants worth over \$1.55 million were handed out to 36 recipients through the REAP Recycling Assistance Grants program.

Applications available for Make It Shine cleanup

Applications are now available for the 2011 West Virginia Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup. This annual event is jointly sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Highways.

During the first two weeks of April, the Make It Shine program will provide resources such as cleanup materials, waste hauling and landfill fees to community groups volunteering to conduct litter

cleanups on state streams or public lands. More than 3,000 West Virginia citizens participated in last year's statewide cleanup and removed close to 190 tons of litter.

The application deadline for those wishing to participate this year is Feb. 18, 2011. Applications are available through contacting Travis Cooper at 1-800-322-5530, or by email at:

Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov