

We're pullin' for ya ...



Paul Ludwig, Christy Puckett, Mike Egnor and Scott Norman lay it on the line as part of the DEP tug team during the Corporate Cup Tug of War competition at University of Charleston Stadium. The DEP team of 10 fought its way out of the loser's bracket to finish second in the Tug tournament on the Corporate Cup's last day. It wasn't enough, however, to pull the DEP into first place in the final team standings.

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Training focuses on workplace shootings

By Colleen O'Neill

If someone came into the workplace and opened fire, would you know what to do?

The Department of Environmental Protection offered an Active Shooter Training to its

employees on both May 28 and May 30 in the Coopers Rock Training Room at agency headquarters.

"I attended training at the Civic Center on Active Shooters," said Tammy Thornton, the DEP Safety coordinator. "It was such a good

training and the information pertained to a lot of the things that had been happening in the news lately.

"It wasn't just information that could be used at work. With the

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Chevy Volt making a difference in mail run

By Tom Aluise

Count Derek Thompson among the fans of the Chevy Volt.

The Department of Environmental Protection added the electric car to its fleet of vehicles about a month ago and assigned it for use on the agency's daily mail runs.

Thompson, a mail room employee, usually is the person behind the Volt's steering wheel. He said the car more than measures up in terms of space, drivability and efficiency to the Jeep Liberty he drove before.

"The electric power system makes the Volt the quietest car I've ever driven," Thompson said, "and I believe it's easier to operate than the Jeep Liberty. From those of us who have



Department of Environmental Protection mail room employee Derek Thompson enjoys driving one of the newer additions to the DEP vehicle fleet, a Chevrolet Volt. The electric car gets more than 40 miles on a single charge.

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VOLT

Continued from Page 1

driven it, we have one common thought: we wish we could personally own one.”

The DEP is leasing the Volt, just as it does all of its vehicles, from the state Department of Administration and currently is the only state agency with a Volt in its fleet.

“We thought this was the perfect opportunity to get something like this,” said Jamie Adkins, the DEP’s procurement manager, noting that the mail room’s Jeep was due to be replaced.

“We had the mail guys check the mileage and the longest route they ran during the day was well within range of the Volt,” Adkins said. “We’re getting way better than 40 miles now on a single charge.”

The Volt operates off an advanced lithium-ion battery which, when fully charged, can power the car for close to 50 miles.

Once the battery is depleted, the vehicle uses a gasoline-powered, range-extending generator to produce electricity and keep the car running an additional 300-plus miles.

Because Thompson charges the battery every day and his mail runs average roughly 40



The Volt dashboard includes a touch screen with different information, including how efficiently the battery is being used.

total miles per day, he has yet to put a drop of gas into the Volt.

The DEP’s charging station is located on the west side of agency headquarters, near the back of the building, and draws most of its power from solar panels atop the DEP roof.

“The majority of our daily mail runs are fully powered by what we’re pulling off the solar panels,” Adkins said.

Thompson said charging the Volt is a breeze.

“You simply plug it up and in a few short hours you have a full charge,” he said.

The Volt dashboard features a touch screen that assists the driver in being more battery

efficient.

“The instructional screens can teach you the best ways to drive your Volt,” Thompson said. “This includes how to rebuild a charge while on the road, as well as ways to control your driving style and vehicle settings. By following the tips, you really get the most out of every battery charge.”

Adkins said there is room to add more charging stations outside DEP headquarters if other offices in the agency decide to add a Volt to their fleets.

“Other divisions in the DEP, now that they’ve seen the car, are very serious about pursuing a Volt as a replacement,” Adkins said.

PRSA honors InDEPth with 2013 Crystal Award

InDEPth has been recognized by the Public Relations Society of America West Virginia Chapter with a Crystal Award.

The glass awards are presented annually for outstanding public relations campaigns and projects in West Virginia.

InDEPth was honored in the “Projects” category, under “magazine or newsletter, nine pages or more, with the primary audience being internal.”

Judging criteria included grammar, spelling, punctuation, design, originality and creativity.

“It’s a compliment to the DEP’s communications’ staff for doing so well in the Crystal Awards,” said John Womack, who chairs the awards for PRSA.

“This year we had a record 178 entries, making our local contest one of the largest

and most competitive in the nation,” Womack said.

InDEPth is produced monthly by the Department of Environmental Protection’s Public Information Office and is delivered electronically to agency employees.

It is also available on the DEP Web site.

For the Crystal Awards, InDEPth was entered in the “Not-for-Profit” division.

“The Not-for-Profit category includes governmental agencies, but also includes higher education, hospitals, private schools, associations, convention and visitors bureaus and other industries which many people don’t always realize are not-for-profit,” Womack said.

“This award proves that the agency does very good work in a very competitive landscape.”



Earl Ray Tomblin

Governor

Randy Huffman

Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco

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Youth Environmental Day

No. 50 in the books

More than \$15K awarded to groups

This year's Youth Environmental Day took on a festive tone. It was the 50th anniversary of the event, which has been a part of the Youth Environmental Program since YEP's creation 50 years ago.

On hand at North Bend State Park to help celebrate the anniversary was Mountaineer Mascot Jonathan Kimble. Also, the DEP's Diana Haid was recognized for her many years of service as the director of the agency's YEP. Haid received a glass vase with the inscription: "For over 30 years of dedication to the Youth Environmental Program on the 50th anniversary of Youth Day, May 18, 2013."



DEP Communications Chief Kathy Cosco recognizes Diana Haid for her service to YEP.

"This was very special," Haid said. "I was completely surprised and overwhelmed."

More than \$15,000 in awards and scholarships was handed out during Youth Day to groups enrolled in the YEP.

They submitted reports about projects such as recycling drives, litter cleanups and watershed protection efforts.

Sequoia Bua-lam, who graduated from Winfield High this year, received the prestigious Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship, presented to an active YEP member with exemplary conduct throughout his/her school years.

She received \$2,500 per year for four years.



Youngsters at the Department of Environmental Protection's Youth Environmental Day in Ritchie County take part in a craft that turned plastic soda rings into recycled bracelets.



Youth Day groups get into the spirit of the event's 50th anniversary as they make their way through the exhibition tent at North Bend State Park.



Mountaineer mascot Jonathan Kimble made a special appearance at Youth Day to the delight of all participants.



Left, the DEP's Ashley Hicks takes a break with Smokey, while (right) the DAQ's Mike Rowe crushes some pennies.



Youth Environmental awards

Awards at this year's Youth Environmental Day were presented based on youth groups' participation in community environmental projects such as litter cleanups, recycling drives, school beautification projects, tree planting and much more.

Following is the list of winners:

Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship – Sequoia Bualam, Winfield High School. This scholarship is presented to an active Youth Environmental Program member with exemplary conduct throughout his/her school years. Recipient receives \$2,500 per year for four years.

West Virginia Forestlands & Wood Products Art Awards – Izabelle King, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County (grade school winner); Travis Jones, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County (middle school winner); Kamille Bonecutter, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County (high school winner). Three \$150 awards are presented for art creations that promote West Virginia's forest resources or wood products created from these forests.

Sustainable Forestry Art Poster Award – Melissa Ashman, Girl Scout Troop No. 4988, Roane County. This \$150 award is presented for the poster that expresses ideas on Sustainable Forestry.

Maple Award (tree planting) – Sharp Shooter 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$150 award is presented to the youth group completing the best tree-planting project.

Go-Mart Corporation Energy Essay Award – Leah Casarano, Sandy Pals 4-H Club, Preston County. This \$125 award is presented for a winning essay titled, "Energy Options and Ways to Conserve Energy."

Bear Category Environmental Award – Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$500 award is presented to a youth group completing projects that answer an environmental need, whose members are ages 12-14 years.

Litter Control Award – Morristown Mountaineers 4-H Club, Wirt County. This \$300 award is presented to a youth group that has completed the most successful litter cleanup projects.

Mountain Laurel Category Environmental Award – Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$500 award is presented to a youth group that has completed projects addressing an environmental need, whose members are ages 6-11.

Cardinal Art Poster Awards – Kaylene Marie Snyder, Cedarville Centurions 4-H Club, Gilmer County; Luke



Rick Vecellio scholarship winner Sequoia Bu-Iam, of Winfield High School, with the DEP's Kathy Cosco.

Sturgeon, Roadrunners 4-H Club, Mason County. Posters must depict an environmental theme. Winners receive either a scholarship to Junior Conservation Camp or State Conservation Camp.

Rick Vecellio Memorial Art Poster Awards – Levi Riley, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County; Kaden Smith, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County; McKinzey Haverty, Jim Ridge Challengers 4-H Club, Putnam County; Brooke Welch, Winfield Scotts 4-H Club, Putnam County; Keilee Smith, Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County. Each winner presented with \$100 for poster that depicts an environmental theme.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin Beautification Award – Comet Cardinal 4-H Club, Jackson County. This \$500 award is presented to the youth group that completes the most outstanding job of community litter prevention, cleanup and beautification.

Keep West Virginia Beautiful Award – Horner Busy Bees 4-H Club, Lewis County. This \$300 award is presented for the most outstanding litter prevention project conducted for a school.

Mountain State Award of Excellence Environmental Project – Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County. This \$500 award is for clubs with projects answering an environmental need, that have also won first place in the past two years in the Mountain Laurel, Bear and Rhododendron categories.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy C. Huffman Brook Trout Kindergarten Award – Belleville 4-H Cloverbuds, Wood County. This \$200 award is presented to the kindergarten group that completes the most outstanding environmental projects.

Youth Environmental Hall of Fame Awards – Elizabeth Blankenship, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County; Rachel Casteel, Greenwood Wildcats

4-H Club, Doddridge County. These \$200 awards presented to two outstanding girls who are nominated based on their extensive involvement in their club's community environmental activities.

Streams and Trails Award – Mount Clare Mountaineers 4-H Club, Harrison County. This \$300 award goes to the youth group that has shown the most effort in cleaning a stream and/or building or maintaining a trail.

District Coordinators' Awards – Wilsonburg New Horizon 4-H Club, Harrison County; Boy Scout Troop 32 and Crew 32, Hampshire County; Free Star 4-H Club, Upshur County; Hinton Helping Hands 4-H Club, Summers County; Winfield Scotts 4-H Club, Putnam County; Hamilton Middle Citizens in Action, Wood County. These \$200 awards are given to youth groups in each of the six districts in recognition of their overall community environmental efforts.

Environmental Achievement Award – American Heritage Girls WV 1816, Putnam County. This \$300 award is presented to a newly enrolled youth group that has shown the most progress through participation in community environmental projects.

Rhododendron Category Environmental Award – Fairview 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$500 award is presented to a youth group completing projects that answer an environmental need, whose members are ages 15 years and older.

Recycling Award – Belleville 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$300 award is presented to a youth group with the best overall recycling projects.

Wildlife Management Award – Go Getters 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$300 award is presented to a youth group completing a wildlife management project that encompasses food, water and cover for West Virginia's wildlife.

Recycling Education and Awareness Award – Point Pleasant Junior/Senior High Environmental Buddies, Mason County. This \$300 award is given to the youth group with the best community recycling education and awareness project based on club and community involvement.

Save Our Streams Award – Winfield High School Environmental Action Club, Putnam County. This \$300 award is given to the youth group whose project(s) meets the goals of the Save Our Streams Program.

DuPont Washington Works Plastic Recycling Award – Valley Mills Northern Lights 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$300 award is presented to the youth group that has completed the most exceptional project(s) that integrate recycling a variety of plastics.

Environmental Education Award – Ashton Elementary Second Grade Class, Mason County. This award is presented to the youth group that has completed the most outstanding work in environmental education.

Watershed Protection Award – Lucky Leaf 4-H Rhododendron Club, Randolph County. This \$300 award is presented to the youth group that shows the most effort in watershed protection, education and community awareness.

REAP Adopt-A-Spot Award – Schultz Ridge Runners 4-H Club, Mason County. This award is presented to the youth group with an Adopt-A-Spot that has maintained the spot with three reported cleanups and that has planted and maintained flowers on the spot for each blooming season.

REAP Recycling Power Point Presentation Award – Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County. This award was created for those youth groups wishing to step up their involvement in environmental activities by creating a Recycling Power Point Presentation.

North Bend Clean & Green Award – Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County. This \$200 award is presented to the youth group that completes the most outstanding job of helping keep North Bend State Park clean and green.

West Virginia State Parks Superintendents Association Award – Cedarville Centurions 4-H Club, Gilmer County. This \$300 award was established by the late Steve Boler, superintendent of Pipestem, to foster relationships between local youth groups and state parks, forests and wildlife management areas.

DEP volunteers



This determined DEP group helped collect 42 bags of litter around agency headquarters.

Tidying up

Twenty-six volunteers from the Department of Environmental Protection's Kanawha City headquarters took to the streets around the building as part of the agency's annual cleanup in conjunction with the Adopt-A-Highway program.

The spring cleanup by the yellow-vested DEP staffers netted 42 bags of trash and pleased Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Sherry Thaxton.

"I want to personally thank everyone who participated in the cleanup," she said.

The DEP's Oak Hill office also staged a cleanup around its facility. Eight volunteers worked two hours and collected 18 bags of trash.



Top, the DMR's David Gay hones in on some litter. Bottom, the DEP team gears up before heading out to the field.

Small Business program honors Polen

DEP Ombudsman Dr. Terry Polen was honored by the National Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs during a recent training and conference in Chicago.

Polen received the 10th annual Program Award in "Recognition of your exemplary work with the (EPA) Small Business Ombudsman team and fellow State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs."

Last year, Polen was elected by these programs and serves as the chairman of the National Steering Committee, which represents every state and territory.

Also, a few weeks prior to receiving the award in Chicago,



Polen

Polen was honored by Strayer University, where he teaches graduate and undergraduate business and mathematics classes in the evenings.

The university presented him with both an award and a medal for "sustained and outstanding academic service."

In his position with the DEP, Polen helps businesses of all shapes and sizes understand complicated environmental laws and advises them on steps they must take to comply with those regulations.

Cleanup has very special meaning

By Colleen O'Neill

It was among the more memorable Adopt-A-Highway cleanup efforts in the program's history and one AAH Coordinator Sherry Thaxton won't forget anytime soon.

"It was a very moving experience and there were a lot of tears shed by everyone involved," Thaxton said. "I feel blessed that I was able to be a part of their special day to remember Stephanie."

This spring, the DEP's AAH Program helped friends and family of Stephanie Ward-Stahl remember her in a special way.

Ward-Stahl was killed in November of 2012 by a drunk driver on McCutcheon Road in Triadelphia, Ohio County.

The cleanup area, from the end of McCutcheon Road to Cabella's Drive, was dedicated as her memorial site.

"I was at the accident site and there was trash everywhere, so I started cleaning and looking out over the area," said Jeff McConnell, a lieutenant with the Triadelphia Volunteer Fire Department.

Ward-Stahl wasn't a member of the Triadelphia VFD, although many of the volunteers considered her part of the VFD family.

She had been best friends with Assitant Chief Dave Patterson and his wife, Jackie.

"I noticed the nice view, and that's basically what inspired the idea to adopt the roadway in her memory," McConnell said.

McConnell contacted Thaxton and the DEP jumped into action.

The Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan, which AAH is a

See SPECIAL, Page 9

2013 Environmental Excellence Awards

Honor reinforces winners' goals

By Tom Aluise

This year's Environmental Excellence Award winners had an eye toward the future following the May ceremony in their honor at DEP headquarters.

"This award reinforces our commitment to both our customers' future service and our ongoing stewardship of our environment. It reminds us of our obligation to the next generation," said Mary Seymour, general manager of the Summit Park Public Service District.

"We are grateful for the recognition and will display it with pride."

Summit Park, located in Harrison County, was honored by the DEP in the Wastewater Collection System category.

In all, the DEP recognized 24 Environmental Award winners in 2013 for their environmental stewardship in 2012.

Norfolk Southern Corp. was honored in the Industry Greater than 100 Employees category for its wastewater recovery system at a site in Mullens.

"As a corporation of more than 30,000, it feels good to be a part of a group that strives to make tomorrow more accommodating to the environment, than yesterday," said Norfolk Southern's Mike East.



The Coopers Rock Room at DEP headquarters was standing-room-only for this year's Environmental Excellence Awards. Twenty-four winners were recognized.

"And here at Norfolk Southern, we appreciate the recognition of the DEP in identifying we are working in the right direction to make that happen.

"I would like to think our association with the state of West Virginia, the DEP and the EPA is more partnership, than regulator status."

The Berkeley County Solid Waste Authority was one of four winners in the Environmental Stewardship category. The SWA operates the county's recycling program and two of its drop-off sites are considered among the

most comprehensive drop-off recycling centers in the state.

"We are very serious in the pursuit of the West Virginia legislative requirements to reduce, reuse, recover and recycle solid waste," said Clint Hogbin, chairman of the Berkeley County SWA.

"We believe West Virginians can reduce their dependence on landfilling, create jobs, save precious resources and reduce the harm to the environment. We would like to extend our appreciation to the DEP for acknowledging our efforts."

DWWM intern from Brazil is quick learner

By Colleen O'Neill

Imagine having an opportunity to experience a far-away land, being totally immersed in its lifestyle, and afforded the opportunity to attend school there for year.

That's the reality for DEP intern Luiza Barbosa de Paula Dias.

She resides in Lorena, a small city in the Brazilian state of São Paulo. Her native language is Portuguese, although her English is progressing nicely.

The 23-year-old Dias attends the Universidade Federal de Itajubá, where she is in her fourth year studying Environmental Engineering. It was at school where she first



DEP intern Luiza Barbosa de Paula Dias is studying Environmental Engineering in Brazil.

learned of the foreign exchange program that brought her to America and West Virginia University.

"I came to the U.S. last July, selected as part of a new exchange program called the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program," she said,

"which was created by the Brazilian government to assist students, especially in the science area, by providing scholarships for one year of studying and living in the U.S.

"Many students were applying for the program, so I decided it could be a

"She's always asking questions and is very engaged . . ."

Kathy Emery

CWSRF director, on exchange student and intern Luiza Barbosa de Paula Dias

valuable opportunity to have a great experience outside of the country.

"I would be learning more about my major and speaking English, which is an important language to learn nowadays."

Dias was attending

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Erin Creelman has replaced Teresa Weaver as the DEP's Benefits and Wellness coordinator. The Hurricane resident began her career at the agency as a receptionist.

Benefits and Wellness program in good hands

By Colleen O'Neill

A familiar face has been hired to fill the position of Department of Environmental Protection Benefits and Wellness coordinator.

Erin Creelman, a former employee of the Office of Administration's Administrative Services, has returned to fill the position left vacant when Teresa Weaver left the agency in October 2012.

A Hurricane resident, Creelman had been at the agency for nearly two years, beginning as a receptionist before going to Administrative Services. As an Office Assistant II, she assisted with safety, inventory, maintaining copiers and printers, and providing general clerical services for the Administrative Services section.

These experiences allowed her to familiarize herself with the agency programs and its employees.

"I left DEP for a higher position with the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Commissioner's Office," Creelman said.

At the DMV, she became an OA III, where her responsibilities included processing legislative license plates, screening phone calls for the DMV's commissioner, and providing general clerical services.

Even though she enjoyed her co-workers and being part of the DMV's Commissioner's Office, she missed DEP and had kept in touch with her friends.

"A friend forwarded the posting

"DEP employees are already very interested and enthusiastic when it comes to maintaining their health and wellness."

Erin Creelman

DEP Benefits and Wellness coordinator

to me when the vacancy was announced. She knew I wanted to return to DEP, and thought I would be interested in the position," Creelman said.

Both programs, especially Benefits, are proving to be time consuming.

"When changes are made regarding premium discounts, enrollment, and so on, you have to stay on top of it, and keep your employees informed," Creelman said. "Open Enrollment and the months leading up to it are busy times for Benefits. That's when the majority of employees are making changes or have questions."

But sometimes personal actions can help a program along.

"DEP employees are already very interested and enthusiastic when it comes to maintaining their health and wellness," she said. "Many come to me with ideas for future wellness activities and

Social media

Agency presence expands on Facebook

By Tom Aluise

It's not surprising that Kim Maxwell would use a water-related axiom to explain her program's jump into the world of Facebook.

She is, after all, the Department of Environmental Protection's Project WET coordinator.

"You fish where the fish are," Maxwell said. "I think that's the same thing here."

I want my message to get out there, and Facebook is where people are hanging out."

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and REAP's

Adopt-A-Highway recently became the DEP's third and fourth programs to establish Facebook pages, joining the Youth Environmental Program and Water's Non-Point Section.

"We're just trying to reach a broader audience," said AAH Coordinator Sherry Thaxton, who relies on volunteers statewide — and attracting new ones — to ensure the success of her cleanup program.

"A lot of our volunteers are elderly and don't have Facebook, or even own a computer," Thaxton said. "But we're seeing more and more who do."

To get the word out about this year's AAH Picnic in August, Thaxton's staff mailed out cards to AAH volunteers around the state. AAH's Facebook page address, www.facebook.com/pages/Adopt-Highway/589146171119681, was included on the card.



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DEP Awards



Tom Bergstrom
DWWM, Charleston, June EOM

Bergstrom worked with the City of Charleston to create an awareness of nonpoint source pollution and recruited 18 local artists to paint barrels that are being used to advertise rain barrel workshops.

She also has had to find and store 200 empty barrels, research the best design, order parts and coordinate delivery, create outreach materials, and serve as the contact for registration. She has put a new twist on an old idea and people are responding positively.



Tonya Ombler
DWWM, Charleston, Rewards & Recognition

Prior to the recent DWWM informational meetings, Ombler spent many hours behind the scenes working to ensure the technology for both live meetings and video-conferencing was up and running.

She was responsible, in part, for getting the Live Meeting capability installed on *all* DWWM computers.

This one instance alone illustrates her ability to not shy away from technical challenges.



Jennifer Garlesky
PIO, Oak Hill, Rewards & Recognition

Garlesky is very committed to her position and serves as a great role model to her counterparts.

She frequently gives presentations to schools and community groups and has helped organize many environmental events in her assigned counties.

She is extremely knowledgeable about agency programs and services, as well as local environmental issues and concerns.

Agency transactions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ **Richard Bertolotti**
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Greg Blackburn**
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Victoria Derosa**
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Ross Eller**
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Natalie Ferrell**
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Myllinda Maddox**
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Michael Wade**
Division of Air Quality
- ▶ **Robert Jackson**
Division of Water Waste Management
- ▶ **Andrew Tarr**
Office of Legal Services

Internal Transfers

- ▶ **Dwayne Bolyard**
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Laura Cooper**
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Lily Kay**
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Linda Keller**
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Tracie Anne Kitchen**
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Terry Meade**
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **William Cavender**
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Bryan Harris**
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Jeffrey McCauley**
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Dennis Nunan**
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Jason Pennington**
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands

DEP retirements

Susan Robinson
Administration
Last day: May 31, 2013
Years of service: 14

Vicki Lucas
DMR
Last day: June 28, 2013
Years of service: 37

Ken Ellison
DLR
Last day: June 30, 2013
Years of service: 34

Nancy Frazier
Administration
Last day: July 31, 2013
Years of service: 8

FACEBOOK

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“We mail out notification cards now, but we’re hoping to get to the point where most things are accomplished electronically,” Thaxton said.

The AAH Facebook page includes cleanup schedules, photos from events, contact information, links to news and other items.

Much like the AAH program, Project WET’s success hinges on its ability to establish a link with the community.

But it goes further, Maxwell said. And that’s where Facebook comes in.

“Not only do I need to attract people to the program, but I want to stay in contact with them beyond the workshops to support them in their efforts and to build an entire community of people working toward the same goal,” Maxwell said.

Project WET provides educators with hands-on activities and other resources to teach students about the

importance of water. Community leaders, resource managers and concerned citizens also can use Project WET materials.

Maxwell knows she can reach them all through Facebook.

“Getting ‘likes’ is just one piece of the puzzle,” she said.

“What I want is high interaction on the page. I’m trying to get people to communicate with each other and with me on this page. ‘Likes’ are great.

“But I’d rather have people engaging each

other.”

Maxwell posts items of interest three to five times per week on the Project WET page, www.facebook.com/westvirginiaprojectwet. The page includes everything from videos on how to make a rain barrel, to tips on lowering the residential water bill.

“I’m trying to make my posts visual,” Maxwell said. “People are going to learn better from pictures. Hopefully, it’s really engaging and entertaining.”

Make It Shine Cleanup

More than 200 tons of trash gone from state

By Colleen O’Neill

This year proved to be record-setting for West Virginia’s Make-It-Shine cleanup program. MIS had the largest number of volunteers and projects it’s ever had.

During the first two weeks of April, 6,050 volunteers took part in 147 projects around the state and picked up 438,115 pounds of trash. Included in that number was 1,970 pounds of metal; 639 pounds of aluminum; 1,569 tires; and 69 appliances.



Volunteers spent 11,574 hours cleaning up 203 miles of roadway, 134 miles of stream, 45 miles of trail ways, 340 acres of parks, and 41 dumpsites.

State MIS Coordinator Travis Cooper said he’s always amazed

at the number of volunteers who participate.

“People of all ages turn out, willing and eager to make our state more beautiful and healthy by picking up other people’s trash,” he said. “It makes me proud to be a West Virginian and work with such enthusiastic volunteers.”

Hickman interim DLR director

Patty Hickman has been appointed interim director of the Division of Land Restoration, replacing Ken Ellison, who retired in late June.

Hickman has worked at the DEP for nearly 22 years. She started as an inspector in Water Resources and has had several positions over the years, including inspector for the Underground Storage Tank program; project manager for the Office of Environmental Remediation; program manager for Underground Storage Tanks and most recently program manager for OER.

She will be responsible for the daily operations of the DLR and all of its programs, which include the OER, Office of Special Reclamation, REAP and the Pollution Prevention and Open Dump program.



Volunteers comb a stretch of road where friend Stephanie Ward-Stahl was killed by a drunk driver last year. This spring, Ward-Stahl’s friends conducted an AAH cleanup on the Ohio County road in her memory.

SPECIAL

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member, supplied the trash bags, gloves, trash grabbers, and arranged for trash pickup. The AAH Program also provided signs to be placed at the entrance and exit areas of the cleanup project.

“I made sure the volunteers had enough supplies, and then as I try to do at each cleanup, I took photos and then was able to participate,” Thaxton said.

From the initial contact, the project took on a life of its own, growing to include police escorts to ensure the volunteers’ safety, a fire truck and ambulance from the Triadelphia VFD, refreshments for the volunteers, a luncheon and coverage from a local TV station.

Family, friends, co-workers, fellow church members, and the Triadelphia VFD gathered, topping attendance for the cleanup at 110 volunteers.

“I have been in this position a little over two years and this was my largest group, so far,” Thaxton said.

Corporate Cup 2013

DEP's string of Corporate Cup titles ends at 11

It couldn't go on forever. So it is that the Department of Environmental Protection's amazing run of Corporate Cup success is over ... for now.

There is always next year to begin a new streak.

As for this year's YMCA-sponsored competition among area businesses and agencies, the DEP finished second in the final Division III overall standings to Charleston Area Medical Center (*see results page 11*).

CAMC snapped the DEP's run of 11 consecutive Corporate Cup titles. In the competition, the DEP had one first-place showing and four second-place efforts.

Paul Frantz and Jean Sheppard won the horseshoes tournament. Second-place spots were earned by Natalie Paynter and Jay Fedczak in Putt Putt; Lewis Halstead, Rose Brodersen, Dan Roberts and Joni White in bowling; Amy Halstead, Matt Sweeney and John Wirts in the 35-over 400 meter medley run; and the Tug of War team.



John Wirts, from the DWWM, runs a leg of the Open 800-meter relay race during Corporate Cup track and field day at University of Charleston Stadium.



The never-say-quit DEP Tug Team lost its first match but battled back out of the loser's bracket to finish in second place.



Jennifer Bannister, from DWWM, takes charge at third base during Corporate Cup softball competition.



The Office of Oil and Gas' Natalie Paynter moves into position to catch a pop-up at second base, while the OOG's Laura Cooper looks on during a Corporate Cup softball game at the North Charleston fields.



The DEP's Shannon Straley focuses in on a shot attempt during the Soccer Shootout at the YMCA.

Now, this is fun!



The Youth Environmental Program’s annual Junior Conservation Camp had another successful run in June at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

More than 200 youngsters participated in the week-long camp and learned environmental lessons from mentors such as the DEP’s Brad Blaine and John King, pictured on right.

There was, of course, plenty of time for fun too.

■ Photos by Jennifer Pauer



WELLNESS

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“fundraisers. It’s great to see such interest and support.”

Creelman is happy with the current Wellness program, and the only big change she plans on making is in the Wellness Center.

“We’re working on putting up a bulletin board in the Wellness Center to be updated frequently with different community events concerning health and wellness,” she said.

“It will have information related to certain ‘Awareness’ months such as Breast Cancer Awareness, and information regarding ongoing wellness activities.”

DEP is very involved with employee well-being, and it provides an added service that Creelman believes in.

“I want to encourage more participation in our Employee Assistance Program with REACH, beginning with providing more information to employees on what REACH has to offer,” Creelman said.

“It’s a great program; I think more employees will take advantage of it once they know more about it.”

If you have any questions regarding REACH, benefits, or wellness, Creelman can be reached at ext. 1580.

Cup results

A list of Corporate Cup events in which DEP placed and who participated:

Softball — 7th Place (Jennifer Bannister, Rich Boehm, Josh Collins, Laura Cooper, Mike Egnor, David Keatley, Jay Fedczak, Diana Haid, Annette Hoskins, Scott Norman, Nick Pahoundis, Jenna Palmer, Natalie Paynter, Christy Puckett, Dan Roberts, Megan Smith, Alan Snyder, Shannon Straley, Sherry Thaxton, Danny Wandling).

Horseshoes — 1st Place (Paul Frantz, Jean Sheppard).

Putt Putt — 2nd Place (Natalie Paynter, Jay Fedczak).

Hoop Shoot — 4th Place (Tom Aluise, Jennifer

Bannister, Annette Hoskins, Anthony Sturey).

Open 5-K run (Men) — 8th Place (Rich Boehm).

Open 5-K run (Women) — 5th Place (Jennifer Bannister).

35-over 5-K run (Men) — 5th Place (Dennis Stottlemeyer).

35-over 5-K run (Women) — 8th Place (Megan Grose).

Team Health Walk — Mike Egnor, Diana Haid, Megan Smith, Mike Warwick.

Tennis — 3rd Place (Lisa McClung, John Wirts).

Trivia — 3rd Place (Gene Coccari, Mike Egnor, Corey McComas, Joni White).

Table Tennis (Women) — 6th Place (Misty Reese).

Closest to the Pin (Men) — 3rd Place (Jay Fedczak).

Volleyball — 6th Place — (Heather Balladares, Tomi Bergstrom, Kevin Coyne, Scott Fairchild, Scott Norman, Greg Null, Dan Roberts, Jean

Sheppard, Shannon Straley, Sherry Thaxton).

Darts — 8th Place (Josh Collins, Jenna Palmer).

Bowling — 2nd Place (Rose Brodersen, Lewis Halstead, Joni White, Dan Roberts).

Punt, Pass & Kick (Men) — 4th Place (Scott Norman).

Punt, Pass & Kick (Women) — 6th Place (Jenna Palmer).

Cornhole — 6th Place (Kathy Cosco, Paul Frantz).

Combined age swim — 3rd Place (Ashley LeMasters, Amy Molgaard, Mike Warwick, John Wirts).

Medley swim — 4th Place (Ashley LeMasters, John Wirts).

Open 100 meter run (Women) — 7th Place (Megan Grose).

35-over 100 meter run (Men) — 5th Place (John Wirts).

35-over 100 meter run (Women) — 5th Place (Amy Halstead).

Obstacle Course

(Women) — 4th Place (Megan Grose, Amy Halstead).

35-over 400 meter medley run — 2nd Place (Amy Halstead, Matt Sweeney, John Wirts).

Open 800 meter relay run — 8th Place (Megan Grose, Amy Halstead, Dan Roberts, John Wirts).

Tug of War — 2nd Place (Chad Carmichael, Laura Cooper, Mike Egnor, Lewis Halstead, Diana Haid, Scott Norman, Megan Grose, Christy Puckett, Paul Ludwig, Dan Roberts).

Final team standings — CAMC 257; DEP 223; University of Charleston 209; Department of Transportation 200.3; DOW 199; Brickstreet 190; CASCI 164.3; MRC Global 160; DuPont 122; HealthSmart 122; United Bank 100; Frontier 93; Charleston Newspapers 77.3; Highland Hospital 59; Insurance Commission 58; City of Charleston 54; BB&T 33.

INTERN

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WVU when, after months of study, she decided to put her education to use.

"When the end of my spring semester at WVU was approaching, I started to look for an internship," she said.

"I talked to Dr. Liam, who coordinates the research that I was involved in at WVU, about the possibility of working at the Department of Environmental Protection."

Dr. Liam reached out to Pat Campbell, the deputy director for the Division of Water and Waste Management, who in turn talked with Kathy Emery, who oversees the DWWM's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Section. Emery was delighted and very eager to have Dias intern with the CWSRF section.

"We don't see many engineering students eager to learn wastewater treatment and collection system design," Emery said.

"It was refreshing to see her interest and how eager she was to

learn."

Dias sees her country's needs and understands how her education can help fix the problems.

"The fields of water and wastewater treatment are big areas of Environmental Engineering and, in fact, my country has a lack of facilities to treat water and still needs more improvements in these areas, especially for poor communities that are so numerous around the country," Dias said.

Dias has been in the field, as well as in the office.

She has participated in field review and final inspection of various projects.

"She is self-motivated, industrious and eager to learn," said Jeff Brady, manager of the CWSRF's Engineering Section and Dias' direct supervisor.

"She has quickly progressed from learning our particular brand of jargon to actively participating in group discussions on projects and section policy regarding engineering concerns.

"Luisa is performing as an

engineer-in-training, and as such, she has been assigned plans and specifications to review," Brady said. "This involves mathematical calculations of standard pipe slopes, pump rates, and hydraulic grade lines through a plant, as well as review of design standards and programmatic requirements for wastewater projects funded through our program."

Emery added that she has attended the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council meetings, where she became familiar with the state's funding process.

"She's always asking questions and is very engaged in learning the process," Emery said.

Dias' educational experience includes more than just engineering.

"My experience here will certainly contribute to my career, and, hopefully, I can apply what I experienced here, not only in terms of wastewater projects, but also in terms of the DEP organization and work environment."

Flood relief

In an effort to help victims from the June flooding in Roane County, DEP intern Madeline Harper reached out to co-workers for donations.

DEP staffers responded with cleaning items and cash. Harper, who has family in Roane County, was able to deliver a car trunk load of supplies to the ongoing relief efforts in the Spencer and Looneyville areas.

"I'd like to thank everyone at DEP who helped in the relief efforts," said Harper, who was inspired to act, in part, because she experienced two flood events growing up in Clendenin.

TRAINING

Continued from Page 1

Colorado shooting in the movie theater and the school shootings that had taken place, it just seemed like information everyone should have," said Thornton.

"The information makes people think about things they could do to survive if something like this were to happen."

Conducted by the West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management and the West Virginia State Police, participants were taught to "run, hide, fight."

Thornton explained that first you should run and escape if possible. If not, then hide and lock yourself away from the danger. She said if you have no other choice, you should fight.

The training was presented in three segments, all of which built on each other.

It began with video clips to illustrate a situation and give possible solutions.

The presenters, John Fernatt and Chuck Mozingo, from the WV Board of Risk and Insurance Management, and Sgt. Michael Lynch, from the State Police, discussed the possibilities.

"The presenters were to the point and were knowledgeable on the subject matter," Thornton said. "They told it like it was. You wouldn't let someone hurt your child or grandchild, so why wouldn't you fight to protect yourself, their mother

or father, or grandmother or grandfather?"

The training ended with a demonstration that involved the employees putting their newly learned skills to use. This was many employees' favorite part.

Patty Keys, who works out of the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Oak Hill office, was a willing and eager participant.

"I was the 'distracter,'" Keys said. "My job was to distract the shooter from his initial line of site. Along with others, I used a chair. Of course, we didn't throw anything at the shooter.

"When the shooter came through the door and was successfully disabled, a second shooter came through," Keys said. "We were not expecting the second shooter! It was a good lesson to not assume there's just one shooter."

The DEP's Office of Administration sponsored the training.

"They provided real life practice and increased the confidence of attendees that they really could do what the instructors were telling them they could do in a very difficult situation," said Melinda Campbell, OA's chief.

"It was really interesting and engaging even for those of us who did not participate," Campbell said. "I feel more prepared. The training did not scare me at all."

"The state trooper emphasized that people do not want to be in a victim mode; we need to be prepared," Keys added.