

## Water Trail project



Dennis Stottleyer, of the DEP's Office of Environmental Advocate, kayaks down the Guyandotte to gauge the recreational potential of a 42-mile stretch of the river.

# River of hope

Group from DEP has its eyes set on improving conditions, recreational potential of Guyandotte River

By Sarah Alford



Stottleyer and Ralph Triplett, from the DEP's Office of Oil and Gas, check out a possible boat launch area on the river.

## OOG satisfies staffing needs

By Tom Aluise

As part of the Horizontal Well Control Act, passed by the Legislature in December 2011, the state Office of Oil and Gas increased permit fees for operators rushing to tap into the Marcellus Shale.

The extra revenue produced by the new fees opened the door for the OOG to begin the much-needed process of boosting its staffing levels to meet the growing permitting and inspection demands of the natural gas industry.

Two years later, the OOG can say it's almost there.

Currently, 46 of the office's 48 positions are filled, effectively doubling the staff from 2011 when the Act was passed.

The benefits of the increased staffing levels are many, said James Martin, OOG chief.

"It allows us to be more responsive on several different fronts," Martin said. "It enables us to better address issues from the public and be more responsive to industry with permit applications."

The OOG now has a full inspection staff of 30 under the direction of Dave Belcher.

My hometown is just one of many along the scenic Guyandotte River.

Growing up in rural Harts, I spent much of my "play time" in the mountains behind our home. Hot summer days were consumed by running, tree climbing and making forts with my siblings, cousins and buddies.

We drank from ice cold mountain streams and explored the woods until our bellies rumbled loud enough to scare away any wildlife. Only then would we grudgingly trek out of the mountains and into our back door for lunch or dinner. Those were the wonderful, golden days of childhood.

Although I spent ample time in a natural setting and was allowed to roam the woods, I was not to go anywhere near the river.

See RIVER, Page 7

See STAFFING, Page 3



## DEP Employee of the Year



DEP Employee of the Year John Flesher (second from left) is an inspector supervisor in the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Logan office.

# 'Firm but fair'

## Flesher takes common-sense approach to enforcement

By Colleen O'Neill

This year's recipient of the coveted Department of Environmental Protection Employee of the Year Award said the honor was a "complete surprise."

John Flesher, an inspector supervisor in the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Logan office, was recognized during the annual DEP Employee Appreciation Picnic in October and received a standing ovation from his Logan office peers.

"To get that recognition from everyone was humbling," Flesher said.

Benny Campbell, who oversees the Logan office, described Flesher as a "quiet enforcer of West Virginia's surface mining laws," of which Flesher is very knowledgeable.

"He applies common sense to mining enforcement," Campbell said. "John is very professional toward all DEP

customers, as well as the Division of Mining and Reclamation inspection staff that works under his guidance.

"John is known by coal company representatives, consulting agencies, environmental groups, and citizens as 'firm but fair.'"

Such high regard does not come overnight.

Flesher has worked for the agency since 1993, the entire time in DMR.

"I did a nine-month stint in the Office of Explosives and Blasting in 2001 as a blasting inspector specialist and returned to Logan as inspector specialist," he said.

Flesher's degree is in Forest Management from West Virginia University.

"Good job opportunities in my field of study were few," he said. "Mining and Reclamation was staffing up during that time frame, so I accepted a

See FAIR, Page 8

# Watershed groups honored

By Jennifer Pauer

The Opequon Creek Project Team was named the 2013 Watershed Association of the Year during the recent Watershed Celebration Day at Cacapon State Park.

The West Virginia Watershed Network hosted the 15th annual event, during which nine watershed associations and one individual were recognized by the Watershed Network for their efforts.

The Opequon Creek Project Team is a group that is out and about and very busy.

It sponsors Make It Shine stream cleanups that provide improved recreational experiences for the local residents who use the creek to canoe, kayak, wade, and fish.

Fun floats are a part of the team's community education program to introduce residents to the beauty of the creek and part of the effort to increase membership.

Education Hollis Oak brings extra money and the knowledge of the importance of buffers to stakeholders throughout the watershed during the "Hollis Oak" tree sale.

The Opequon Team also has found value in presentations. At every buffer planting, the president briefs the participants on the value of the creek, the watershed, and the organization's mission.

Members also have used the

See GROUPS, Page 11

## HR has new group email mailbox

The Human Resources Department has recently implemented a new group mailbox:

[DEPHumanResources@wv.gov](mailto:DEPHumanResources@wv.gov).

If you are uncertain who to contact regarding a particular HR issue, you can simply email your question or concern to this email address.

This mailbox will be actively monitored and your email will be routed to the appropriate HR employee.

You can expect a response within 24 hours of receipt.





The DEP's Office of Oil and Gas staff has doubled over the past two years as it adapts to changes in the drilling industry.

**STAFFING**

Continued from Page 1

Twenty-seven of those positions are field-based, with 21 inspectors assigned to specific counties.

By increasing its inspection staff, the OOG can better monitor counties where drilling is the heaviest by limiting the covering inspector to that county only. Other inspectors have multiple counties assigned to them.

"An inspector can concentrate on a smaller geographic area, be more accessible in these areas and spend more time at a given site," Martin said.

"It's important that we cut down on the areas assigned to inspectors."

On the permitting side, there are

"An inspector can concentrate on a smaller geographic area, be more accessible in these areas and spend more time at a given site."

**James Martin**

Office of Oil and Gas chief

14 OOG employees working under the direction of Gene Smith, including Laura Cooper, Ashley LeMasters and Chad Carmichael, who are assigned to review horizontal well permit applications.

Jeff McLaughlin reviews most other permit applications, including those for vertical wells and plugging. Steve Young reviews site plans and erosion and sediment control plans as part of the permit application, while Jason Harmon, from the Division of

Water and Waste Management's Water Use Section, signs off on the operators' water management plans.

In October alone, the OOG received 90 horizontal well permit applications, the most it has ever received in one month, Cooper said.

Still, because of the boost in staffing numbers, the OOG's permitting office continues to reduce the amount of time required for permit review.



**DEP main hallway comes to life**

On Oct. 23-24, the Department of Environmental Protection staged an Enviro DEPot in the first-floor main hallway of DEP headquarters. The event was the brainchild of the Division of Air Quality's Jeanne Chandler, who wanted to give employees in the building a chance to see the many educational/interactive displays various agency offices use throughout the year during outreach events. With the aroma of freshly popped popcorn wafting through the building, the Enviro DEPot was a tremendous success.

*indepth*

**Earl Ray Tomblin**  
Governor

**Randy Huffman**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Tom Aluise**  
Editor

Public Information Office  
601 57th St. S.E.  
Charleston, WV 25304

**Email:**  
Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov

*InDEPth is published monthly by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.*



## DEP Employee Recognition Event

# FUN IN THE SUN



EE's Janice Palmer and granddaughter Izzie enjoy time together at the DEP picnic.

Close to 300 DEP employees attended the annual Employee Recognition Picnic at Little Creek Park in South Charleston.

The day included food, games and recognition for years of service.

The agency's Employee of the Year, John Flesher from the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Logan Office, also was announced (see story page 2).

From left, Tomi Bergstrom, Teresa Koon and Jennifer Pauer, from the Division of Water and Waste Management, relax in the sun.

**Years of Service photos page 5**



The weather was ideal for this year's Employee Recognition Picnic, but the tent-provided shade came in handy.



## DOP finalizing job descriptions this fall

PLANS is the project the Division of Personnel (DOP) is conducting to update the state's Classification Plan and modernize the Compensation Plan. DOP is collaborating on this project with the Hay Group, a global management consulting firm specializing in human resource consulting services.



- The key objectives of this project are to:
1. Ensure that the state's Classification Plan accurately organizes and describes the jobs in state government.
  2. Ensure that the state's Compensation Plan is internally fair and externally competitive.

The DEP's Human Resources Section (HR) reviewed all proposed allocations and job descriptions/titles and provided comments back to DOP in February 2013. HR is currently working with employees to collect and update Job Content Questionnaires (JCQs), as well as providing updates to DOP on job descriptions/titles.

## Training offered for meth lab responders

By Tom Aluise

For the past year and a half, Mike Dorsey has been preaching this message to those who deal with the cleanup, or might encounter the remnants of methamphetamine labs:

Be aware, not afraid. "There is a lot of training out there to scare people," said Dorsey, chief of the DEP's Homeland Security and Emergency

Response office. "If you go to commercial meth training, you often don't get the real stuff. People need to be aware of really what can hurt them. The bottom line is there is a real risk associated with this stuff, but it's not always what they tell you it is in training."

Dorsey and his staff work with law enforcement officials in the cleanup of meth labs and the proper disposal of meth-making materials.

Because of that involvement, Dorsey's office has been providing training courses for over a year on handling the hazards of meth production waste.

There is no certification earned through Dorsey's training. Rather, participants learn a sensible approach to dealing with the dangers of meth labs. The training is available to anyone, from emergency responders to law enforcement officials, and others who deal with meth labs.

Rob Rice, chief of the DEP's Abandoned Mine Lands program, said Dorsey's training would be ideal for his staff, which spends a great amount of time in remote areas of the state, where



Dorsey



# Honoring years of service

Every year, Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman is photographed with DEP staffers who reach milestones in five-year increments.

## 5 years



## 25 years



## 10 years



## 30 years



## 15 years



## 35 years



## 20 years



## Who they are ...

**5 years:** (L to R) Melissa Johnson, Martha White, Laura Jennings, Steve Young, Susan Wheeler, Corey McComas, Kathy Cosco, Candy Green, Tricia Sizemore, Doug Bailey, Wanda Spradling.

**10 years:** Annette Karr, David Miller, Cheryl Johnston, Sue Taylor, Bill Sentman, Lisa Facemyer, Nick Murray, Keith Carte, Alice Cooper, Jamie Adkins, Terry Ramey.

**15 years:** Todd Shrewsbury, B.J. Chestnut, Jean Sheppard, Deanna Liegey, Anita Chapman.

**20 years:** Kevin Quick, Mike Puckett, Gary Rogers, Tom Satterfield, Yvonne Dozier, Terence Washburn, Dotty Pinson, Toni Miller, Lori Devereux, Allen Kuhn, Patsy Bailey, Jeff Bailey, Debbie Hughes, Mike Mertz, James Martin, Dave Vande Linde, Jim Lucas.

**25 years:** Sandra Adkins, Jesse Adkins

**30 years:** Janice Palmer, Tammy Mowrer, Mike Arcuri, Dave Chaney, Keith Porterfield, Theresa Adkins, Elizabeth Burdette.

**35 years:** Randy Taylor, Kim Akers, Larry Alt.

**Years of Service complete list Page 6**



# Painting a pretty picture



The Department of Environmental Protection's REAP Recycling Program, working in cooperation with the Kanawha and Putnam County Habitat for Humanity, conducted a latex paint recycling collection over two days in October at DEP headquarters.

The event was open to DEP employees only and 262 one-gallon containers of paint were collected over the two days.

Habitat for Humanity dispatched a truck to pick up the paint each day. It will be recycled into new paint.

Pictured above from left, REAP's (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan)



Sandy Rogers, Lisa Facemyer and Niki Davis help load discarded paint onto the Habitat for Humanity truck.

At right, Wayne Wilson, from the Division of Mining and Reclamation, drops off some paint for recycling to the DEP garage area, with some assistance from Facemyer.

## DEP retirements

**Mike Arcuri**

Division of Water and Waste Management

**Last day:** Oct. 31, 2013  
**Years of service:** 25

**Linda Grbac**

Office of Administration

**Last day:** Nov. 27, 2013  
**Years of service:** 37

**Calvin Drennen**

Information Technology Office

**Last day:** Nov. 27, 2013  
**Years of service:** 17

**Angela Dorsey**

Division of Mining and Reclamation

**Last day:** Nov. 27, 2013  
**Years of service:** 37

**Alfred Azevedo**

Division of Air Quality

**Last day:** Nov. 27, 2013  
**Years of service:** 35

## Years of Service recognition

**Five years**

Noah Bailey, Lawrence Burgess, Travis Cooper, Kathy Cosco, David Cowan, Matthew Dancy, Jamon Goodrich, Candy Green, Ryan Harbison, Bryan Harris, Jessica Henson, Laura Jennings, John Jewell, Dustin Johnson, Melissa Johnson, Jeffrey Knepper, Walter Lane, Lou Lee, Guy Lewis, Corey McComas, Beena Modi, Misty Reese, David Scranage, Patricia Sizemore, Nicholas Snider, Wanda Spradling, Bret Stutler, Susan Wheeler, Martha White, Steven A. Young.

**10 years**

James Adkins, Michael Ashworth, Douglas Boone, Twila Carr, Keith Carte, Christian Chambers, Alice Cooper, Matthew Cox, Tara Criss, James Davis, Nick Estes, Lisa Facemyer, Jerry

Forren, Jason Fox, Derek Hancock, Natalie Hardman, Dustin Holmes, Cheryl Johnston, Annette Karr, Donald Lewis, James Meade, Terry Meade, David Miller, Amy Molgaard, Nicholas Murray, Valinda Neal, Nathan Parks, Nicholas Payne, Gary Peterson, Greg Phillips, Melisa Powers, Christina Puckett, Terry Ramey, Richard Ray, Mary Sanders, William Sentman, Eric Simpson, Kimberly Smith, Steven Sobutka, Sue Taylor, Thomas Taylor, Ralph Triplett, Terry Urban, Leonard Ward, Dianna Wright, Marlan Zwoll.

**15 years**

Malcolm Allison, Mark Burks, Melinda Campbell, Anita Chapman, Bobbi Jean Chestnut, Timothy Craddock, Curtis Hardman, Dennis Harper, Forrest Jones, Mark

Kesner, Deanna Liegey, Debbie McGinnis, Yogesh Patel, Jacqueline Sheppard, Todd Shrewsbury, Stephen A. Young.

**20 years**

Kelli Adkins, Linda Adkins, Jeffrey Bailey, Patsy Bailey, James Cavendish, Betty Cox, Donald Criss, Carol Daub, Lori Devereux, Robin Dolly, Yvonne Dozier, Steven Graley, Richard Hackney, Roger Henry, Nancy Hieb, Earl Holt, Debra Hughes, Philip Keffer, Allen Kuhn, Thomas Lacy, James Lucas, James Martin, Mary McDonald, Michael Mertz, Toni Miller, Phillip Mooney, Darrell O'Brien, Dotty Pinson, Michael Puckett, Jerry Quesenberry, Kevin Quick, Albert Rodebaugh, Gary Rogers, Gary Sanders, Thomas Satterfield, Ronald Sheets, Steven Sizemore, Stephen Stutler, David

Vande Linde, John Waggoner, Terence Washburn, Eric Weisenborn, Patricia White.

**25 years**

Jesse Adkins, Sandra Adkins, Henry Armentrout, Richard Campbell, Timothy Carroll, Merinda Clayton, Lynn Dunlap, James Fenske, Dale Gable, David Phillips.

**30 years**

Theresa Adkins, Michael Arcuri, Elizabeth Burdette, David Chaney, Michael Kromer, Tamra Mowrer, Janice Palmer, Keith Porterfield, Bradley Swiger.

**35 years**

Kimberly Akers, Larry Alt, Stuart Shamblen, Janice Smithson, Randy Taylor, Sheila Vukovich.

**40 years**

Lawrence English.



## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

**T**ravis Parsons, of the DEP's Abandoned Mine Lands program, was traveling through Princeton, on his way to Windmill Gap/Coaldale, for a field review when he came upon the remnants of the old Lake Shawnee Amusement Park.

"I found it to be very eerie but cool," Parsons said.

The park and the land it sits on have an interesting past.

Archaeologists say the area was home to at least two Native American settlements prior to the arrival of the first European settlers in the late 1770s.

The property is believed to be a massive Indian burial site and some locals think the area is haunted.

Unaware of its Native American history, developers operated an amusement park on the property from 1926-66. It closed after experiencing two children's deaths over the years. One child drowned in a swimming pool and another was killed after being struck by a delivery truck. The park was reopened briefly from 1985-88.

**Got an interesting photo from the field that you'd like to share? Send it to: [Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov](mailto:Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov)**

## AAH cleanup number: 101 tons

By Colleen O'Neill

Having a clean environment is something that transcends borders.

This year's Adopt-A-Highway Statewide Fall Cleanup welcomed volunteers from other countries.

"We had a few students from this area participate but the majority of the volunteers at this location were international students," said Sherry Thaxton, the coordinator for the state AAH program.

Thaxton was speaking about a group of volunteers who cleaned up Beech Fork State Park in Wayne-Cabell counties.

The AAH program has noticed an increase in the number of volunteers.

"Statewide, the number of volunteers this fall increased by 692 people, for a total of 4,485," Thaxton said. "We rented billboards this past



**The "Debra Cooper" group from McDowell County cleaned up a section of Gary's Lane during the fall Adopt-A-Highway cleanup.**

spring and fall trying to recruit more volunteers. The billboards appear to be working."

People from different locations all across the state worked together to beautify West Virginia. They collected 201,670 pounds, or 101 tons, of trash and 344 tires.

"I am always pleasantly surprised by our volunteers," Thaxton said. "They'll see a particular area that needs cleaned and they step up."

## RIVER

Continued from Page 1

In those days, it was considered not only dangerous, but my parents were concerned about what the water might be polluted with. Now, being a parent myself, I have a better understanding of their concerns. Which is why, when presented with the opportunity for a different kind of adventure, I jumped at it!

Several months ago, I was approached by the DEP's Dennis Stottlemeyer, with the Environmental Advocate's office, and Ralph Triplett, with the Office of Oil and Gas, about becoming involved in a potential recreational project on a portion of the Guyandotte River that flows through Lincoln County. Because it was in my neck of the woods, I was very interested and jumped at the offer to participate in an exploratory boating trip.

The stretch of river we planned on paddling was approximately 42 miles long, so the best option was to split it up into multiple trips. On a gorgeous August morning, Dennis, Ralph and I were accompanied by an eager group of participants for the first leg from Branchland to Salt Rock: Nathan Meadows, Tom Satterfield and Tomi Bergstrom from the DEP; Josh Kennedy and Kris Aldridge with Chesapeake Energy; and Dave Roberts, WVU Extension Agent.

What did we find? A beautiful, picturesque water route that is not utilized to its full potential.

Was there trash? Yes. Are there areas in need of improvement? Of course. But, this river also has all of the great things you expect from a rural West Virginia river — great fishing, cool shade, calm water, wildflowers, wildlife and a calming environment.

The purpose of this project, thus far, has been not only to investigate the condition and accessibility of numerous boat launches along the Guyandotte ranging from Chapmanville to Salt Rock, but also to scout any potential areas where additional launches could be constructed or trash/tire cleanups might occur. Also, there is the possibility of reinventing the once-heralded Guyandotte River Regatta in the area of Ranger Park, creating new recreational opportunities along the way, and the formation of a watershed association.

Dennis, Ralph, Tomi and I have since paddled two more sections of the route and have found much of the same along the way. There is definitely work to be done. Key elements, such as securing financial backing and establishing a project leader, are still on the table. But if all of these things come together, the expected outcome will be a cleaner, more accessible river for residents of the area and travelers looking for recreation to enjoy.

Keep an eye on InDEPth for updates on the progress of the Guyandotte Water Trail project.





### DEP staffer recognized by EPA

DEP Sustainability Officer Greg Adolfson was recently recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his support of the E3 Initiative. E3 (Economy, Energy and Environment) is a state and federal initiative geared toward helping the industrial and community sectors thrive in an era focused on sustainability. Above, the EPA’s Mindee Osno presents Adolfson with a certificate of recognition following an E3 West Virginia charter signing ceremony in October.

### FAIR

Continued from Page 2

position in Logan and have been here since.”

Which is good news for the Logan office, Campbell said.

Campbell said Flesher is calm under pressure, professional and in tune with bettering the environment.

“John is not easily shaken when various field situations occur,” Campbell said.

Flesher’s professionalism was on display following past flooding events in southern West Virginia.

“John worked closely with county commission staff, county emergency management personnel, West Virginia National Guard, coal company volunteers, and others to help in total cleanup activities,” Campbell said.

Flesher also has worked closely with the development of the King Coal Highway on former mine lands in Mingo County.

“Reclamation activities on this section of new highway have been closely monitored by John from the beginning,” Campbell said.

# Barbershop hall inducts Stevens

Ken Stevens continues to earn accolades for his involvement in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Recently, Stevens garnered one of his most significant awards. He was inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame from the Johnny Appleseed District (JAD).

Stevens, who works in the DEP’s Information Technology Office, said he was surprised by the honor, which came during October’s JAD fall convention in Lima, Ohio. Nominated for the honor, Stevens is now one of 136 members in the Hall of Fame.

Stevens sings with two chapters — Greater Kanawha Valley and Huntington Tri-State — of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Charleston-area chapter calls itself the Kanawha Kordsmen Chorus. Stevens has been with the Kordsmen for close to 25 years.

Along with his wife Sharon, Stevens also has been a member of the JAD events team for close to 18 years. In that position, he has assisted with the



The DEP’s Ken Stevens (first on right) is one of 136 members in the Barbershop Hall of Fame.

convention program and registration.

Stevens’ other honors include Barbershopper of the Year for the Huntington Chapter; Presidential Award of Merit from the JAD; and the Director’s Key Man award from the Greater Kanawha Valley Chapter.

# Stream Partners Yearbook now available

The 2012 West Virginia Stream Partners Yearbook has been published and is now available for viewing online at: [www.wvca.us/stream.cfm](http://www.wvca.us/stream.cfm). The Stream Partners Program provides volunteers with a small financial resource, technical support, and organizational skills.

The annual yearbook highlights each association’s individuality and successes.

The West Virginia Stream Partners Program is a cooperative effort of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Forestry, the Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Conservation Agency.

It supports community groups that are dedicated to assuring that their local rivers, streams and tributaries are safe for swimming, fishing, recreation, public and commercial purposes and provide habitat for plant and animal life.

Each year approximately 20 \$5,000 seed grants are available to applicants who are willing to organize community members to plan and complete a watershed improvement project.

Watershed volunteers spend the year coordinating their goals with state and federal agencies, local government and watershed stakeholders to implement projects that range from educational field days to on-the-

ground stream restoration.

The watershed organizations use their very unique set of skills, abilities and obstacles to get the project completed.

“Every year we watch the groups grow and get into bigger and more complex projects but they still come back and apply for SPP funds,” said Jennifer Pauer, DEP NonPoint Source Program supervisor and head of the Stream Partners Program.

“They are always appreciative of the support and they really make \$5,000 go a long way. It is nice to have Stephanie Ferrell take all of this work and put it together into the yearbook, so people can get new ideas for next year’s applications.”



**Roadsides in Bloom Calendar contest**

# Calendar cover fitting tribute

By Tom Aluise

To everyone else, it will simply be a lovely shot of fall clematis.

To Karen Jones and her husband, it will be a heartfelt tribute to a lady they loved dearly.

Jones, of Huntington, was the grand prize winner in this year's Roadsides in Bloom calendar photo contest. Her picture of clematis growing on Shockey Drive in Cabell County was selected to grace the cover of the 2014 calendar.

"I was surprised and very excited that I won," Jones said. "And I feel like my husband won too, which makes it a double blessing.

"His mother, Judith Jones, who is deceased now, loved fall clematis. We have a beautiful portrait of her in her wedding dress with the bridal bouquet, which she made, of various flowers, including a cascading bunch of fall clematis.

"She gave my husband a little sprig of it years ago and he planted it by our house. It did well for a couple of years, but then died out. Later, it sprang up by the utility pole and every year since it has bloomed beautifully.

"We think of our dear 'Mama' when we see it. It's a reminder of her beauty, grace and her ability to appreciate the common plants and flowers of our state."

The free Roadsides in Bloom calendar is sponsored by the DEP and the state Department of Transportation. It includes the 13 best photos — as judged by state officials — of West Virginia wildflowers, photographed by West Virginia citizens and others.



**Orders are now being accepted for the 2014 Roadsides in Bloom calendar, which is sponsored by the DEP and DOT.**

The calendar features photos of flowers growing naturally along state roads or in Operation Wildflower beds planted by the state Division of Highways. In addition to the cover photo, 12 winning photos were selected to represent the months of the year.

Monthly winners include: Tonya Keplinger, Mineral County; Eugene Walker, Pocahontas County; Randy Timm, Nicholas County; Jackie Blankenship, Kanawha County; Kathryn Davis, Tucker County; Danny Gallaher, Wood County; Candy Caviness, Jackson County; Michaela Weaver, Lewis County; Edward Rehbein, Pocahontas County; Sandra Ratterman, Summers County; Cyglenda Abbott, Randolph County; Lois Pigott, Harrison County.

To order a calendar, go to: <http://www.dep.wv.gov/dlr/reap/ow/Pages/default.aspx>; call 1-800-322-5530; or email [dep.aah@wv.gov](mailto:dep.aah@wv.gov). If you call and get voicemail, please leave your name and contact information on the mailbox.

## DEP Employees of the Month



**Glenn Nelson, October**

Glenn Nelson directs the agency's Save Our Streams program from the Charleston office and is passionate about its continued success.

His stream ecology classes have been well received, and continually receive positive comments.

He is in constant motion and travels the state extensively to serve volunteer organizations, schools, scouts, 4-H and other community groups that are interested in learning about and becoming involved in stream monitoring.

His efforts were key to bringing the Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Monitoring Conference to West Virginia in 2013.



**Jon Wharton, May**

Jon Wharton works for the Division of Air Quality's Wheeling office and is known as the resident "Bob Villa."

He is a Jack of all trades and is always willing to help others.

Wharton often can be seen sweeping, shoveling, and salting during the winter months.

Other times, he might be seen installing shelves or performing minor carpentry work for his fellow employees.

Wharton is known for offering rides to his co-workers when they need to have repairs done to their state vehicles. Whatever he can do to help, he is always there.



## Youth Environmental Conference

# YEP members learn from each other

By Colleen O'Neill

Having first-hand experience tends to lend credibility to your viewpoint. Such is the case for Diana Haid, the coordinator of the DEP's Youth Environmental Program.

She has been in the same position for more than three decades.

So, when she says that today's youth are becoming more environmentally conscious, people are more likely to listen.

"People are more aware of their surroundings and how their actions — what they do and don't do — affect the earth and, consequently, them," Haid said.

"The young people see this and want to learn, too."

The YEP provides that opportunity through the annual Youth Environmental Conference for young adults, ages 13 through 18. The conference helps the state's youth learn about the environment. They also learn from each other.

"The location for the



For one of their field trips, participants in this year's Youth Environmental Conference visited Ron Hinkle Glass and were treated to a glass-blowing demonstration.

conference changes each year — it's rotated around the state," Haid said. "This is done so every YEP member that's of age has a chance to attend at least one conference.

"It also enables them to see what the different areas of our beautiful state have to offer by going on field trips to experience the area's attractions."

This year's conference was conducted at the Flatwoods Days Hotel and Conference Center.

"As with all conferences, the kids participated in

workshops, activities, and crafts," Haid said.

"They got to see a glass-blowing demonstration from Ron Hinkle Glass, toured the West Virginia Wildlife Center and got a chance to eat farm-fresh produce from Fish Hawk Acres Farm/New Appalachian Farm and Research Center in Rock Cave, which provided lunch for the group.

"The young people could not get over how great the food tasted! The group also visited a pristine well site with permission from Chesapeake Energy.

"Two DEP Office of Oil

and Gas employees provided some very interesting facts about horizontal drilling and how the process has changed over the years.

"Sunday's idea sharing was truly inspiring," she said.

"Some of the project ideas included a working school farm, recycling and clothing drives, participating in the Adopt-A-Highway and Make It Shine cleanups, building outdoor classrooms and nature trails and much more."

Young people who meet the requirements can attend the conference through a scholarship.

Contributions for the scholarships have been provided by various corporations, companies, businesses, county solid waste authorities, conservation districts and banks.

For information on how your youth group can become a member of the Youth Environmental Program and take part in the Youth Environmental Conference, please contact Haid at 304-926-0499, Ext. 1114 or email: [diana.k.haid@wv.gov](mailto:diana.k.haid@wv.gov).

## Agency transactions

### Recent DEP hires

- ▶ **Rosemary Elmore**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Robert Ferrell**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Alyssa Hughes**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **William Light**  
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Jeanne Loshbough**  
Office of Administration
- ▶ **Patty Miller**  
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Carolyn Napier**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **James Nicholson**  
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Kenneth Poland**  
Division of Water, Waste Management

- ▶ **Michel Boyer**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Henry Cox**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Michael Goff**  
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Kenneth Greynolds**  
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Robert Hudnall**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Christina Minigh**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Jay Mitchell**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Catherine Sesa**  
Division of Land Restoration
- ▶ **John Shockey**  
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Zachary Stevison**  
Office of Oil and Gas

### Internal Transfers

- ▶ **Charles Gentry**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Janice Palmer**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Malcom Allison**  
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Charles Carl**  
Office of Administration
- ▶ **James Harvey**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Jamie Hopen**  
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Kylie Lancaster**  
Division of Water, Waste Management
- ▶ **Natalie Paynter**  
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **James Ramsey**  
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands



**GROUPS**

Continued from Page 2

Project WET program to educate the young people attending events.

Volunteers participate in workshops and conferences by sharing their recent watershed experiences with the attendees and discussing stormwater capture using a rain barrel display.

They are always spreading the word about their work and their mission. Guest speakers with local programs and opportunities are an important part of monthly meetings.

The team talks about it and posts it. It has installed a number of signs throughout the watershed. Partnerships have led to an interpretive sign installed on the Route 9 bike path just before it crosses the creek.

The signs also discuss ways residents can help keep and restore the water quality in the watershed. "Public Access Don't Litter" signs were attached to the DNR signs at the creek's public access areas.

Planting trees has always been important to these volunteers and they have been responsible for planting over 3,000 new trees and shrubs.

In addition to over 20 buffers



Members of the Opequon Creek Project team, Lou Scavnicky and Sandra Bernardi, are pictured with the DEP's Alana Hartman (first on left).

installed in their watershed in the last five years, volunteers have pitched in to help with surrounding watershed buffer installation.

In addition to its own mission, the Opequon team is part of two substantial long-term projects of CVI/WVDEP in neighboring watersheds that include septic tank upgrades, tree plantings and planning for a dam removal to improve access for boaters and anglers.

The team also participated in

the WVDEP 2012 summer-long environmental assessment of Back Creek.

Other groups honored at Watershed Celebration Day included: The Friends of Deckers Creek; Warm Springs Run Watershed Association; Morris Creek Watershed Association; Sleepy Creek Watershed group; Save the Tygart Watershed group; Piney Creek Watershed Association; Buckhannon River Watershed Association; and Coal River Group.

**TRAINING**

Continued from Page 4

meth labs tend to pop up.

Recognizing meth-making hazards can prevent serious injury for those first to encounter discarded labs.

Dorsey said safety concerns vary depending on the type of method being used to produce the meth. But, burns resulting from acid and base exposure are at the top of the list, he said.

"People don't care about us (responders)," Dorsey said.

"They'll put acid in a metal container and throw it over a hill. The can won't last that long, so when you go to pick it up, the bottom falls out and you're burned.

"Occasionally, we'll come across one-pots that are still cooking and they can blow up."

If you're interested in training, contact Dorsey at [Mike.H.Dorsey@wv.gov](mailto:Mike.H.Dorsey@wv.gov)

**Food Drive**

**DEP working with Mountain Mission to help those in need**

The Department of Environmental Protection is participating in "Helping people, improving lives" with Mountain Mission this year to help those in need during the holiday season.

Mountain Mission is accepting donations of non-perishable food items until Dec. 8.

Contributions will help families in need enjoy a wonderful holiday meal.

Collection barrels have been

placed at the front and rear elevators on the first floor of DEP headquarters for employees to drop off their contributions.

In 2012, Mountain Mission's programs served 6,412 families, which consisted of 13,756 people. The in-kind financial assistance value was \$407,997 for things such as utility services, housing needs, food, clothing, furniture, medication and many other services to people in their time of need.

**JOB**

Continued from Page 4

It is very important that employees return information to HR promptly when asked to review a JCQ or complete a new JCQ. DOP will be finalizing the job descriptions and sending them to agencies for a final review this fall.

Once the new titles are implemented, all employees will be notified.

If you have any questions about the PLANS project, please contact Debbie Hughes at ext. 1442.