

Water Festival



Close to 275 area grade-schoolers took part in the annual Charleston Water Festival in front of the state Capitol building recently.

The festival was sponsored by Project WET and included plenty of interactive teaching stations that were both educational and fun for the participants. Presenters included DEP staff (including Nick Murray, top), plus other municipal, state and federal agencies. ■ **Story, more photos page 3**

Abandoned Mine Lands

AML project among nation's best

By Tom Aluise

A West Virginia Abandoned Mine Lands Program project that restored life to Three Fork Creek in Preston and Taylor counties has been recognized on the national level.

The National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) presented the Three Fork Creek Watershed Restoration Project with the Appalachian Regional Award during its national conference this week at Glade



AML Chief Rob Rice speaks during the recent NAAML national conference.

Springs Resort in Daniels.

Robert Rice, West Virginia's AML chief,

along with Sheila Vukovich, Jonathan Knight and Justin Haymond from the state's AML program, accepted the award.

The NAAML membership, consisting of programs from 31 states and tribes, selected this year's award winners.

"I'm thrilled to be recognized on a national stage for work our AML program has done," Rice said.

The \$750,500 Three Fork project began in

OOG up next for electronic permitting

By Tom Aluise

By winter of this year, oil and gas operators in West Virginia will have a new option in submitting horizontal well and plugging permit applications to the DEP's Office of Oil and Gas.

The office "is ahead of schedule" as it moves forward in making electronic permit filing available to oil and gas producers, said Gene Smith, the head of permitting for OOG.

Both the DEP's Division of Mining and Reclamation and Division of Water and Waste Management already use ePermitting, which virtually eliminates paper, results in more thorough and error-free applications, and subsequently allows for a more efficient review process on the DEP's end.

Smith sees all of that happening for OOG once ePermitting is in place.

"Less paper is the No. 1 benefit and also the consistency in the permit applications we'll receive," Smith said.

"Right now, we're seeing a lot of applications that are deficient. If you enter the wrong information in ePermitting, you will not be able to submit the application. They can see mistakes

OOG

Continued from Page 1

before the application reaches our office.”

OOG’s ePermitting system will ultimately include all well work permits.

But for now, the focus is on horizontal well and plugging permit applications.

Smith also noted that ePermitting, initially, will not be mandatory for operators.

“We will still have operators who submit their applications in paper form,” Smith said.

He envisions, however, that at least some types of applications ultimately will be required in electronic form.

“I would like to think so,” Smith said, “at least on the horizontal applications, with the amount of paper that is involved and the difficulty in reviewing those types of applications.”

Currently, a small test group of oil and gas operators is submitting applications electronically as kinks are worked out in the process.

This winter, ePermitting training sessions will begin for industry as the system becomes available to everyone.

By next summer, OOG’s ePermitting function will become even more efficient as it’s interfaced with the new



Staff from the Office of Oil and Gas, as well as industry representatives, attended an ePermitting training session earlier this month at DEP headquarters.

“Less paper is the No. 1 benefit and also the consistency in the permit applications we’ll receive.”



Gene Smith

Head of permitting for Office of Oil and Gas

TEMPO software that is replacing ERIS as part of the agency’s upgrades (IRIS project) to its electronic data information system.

Smith said the Office of Oil

and Gas is eager and excited to see the changes through. Industry is on board too, he said.

“I think they’re looking forward to it as well.”

Honoring Years of Service



Eight Department of Environmental Protection employees were on hand recently at the Cultural Center in Charleston to be recognized for their years of service to state government. Employees with 30 or more years of service were honored by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin. Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman also attended the event to offer his congratulations to DEP employees.

Pictured above, along with Gov. Tomblin and Secretary Huffman, are (front) Tammy Mowrer (DAQ); Theresa Adkins (DAQ); and Larry Alt (DMR); (back) Elizabeth Burdette (DWWM); Mike Arcuri (DWWM); Mike Kromer (DMR); Dave Chaney (DWWM); and Brian Shamblen (DMR).



Earl Ray Tomblin

Governor

Randy Huffman

Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco

Communications Chief

Tom Aluise

Editor

Public Information Office

601 57th St. S.E.

Charleston, WV 25304

Email:

Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov

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

Project WET

Water festival a hit with teachers

By Tom Aluise

Close to 275 elementary school students surrounded the Capitol fountain as they learned about water conservation, acid rain, the water cycle and other topics during the annual Charleston Water Festival, sponsored by Project WET.

With the iconic Capitol dome providing a backdrop, it was a day of outside-the-classroom education and hands-on fun for the kids.

“I had a couple teachers say this was just great for the children and that they loved having it at the Capitol space,” said Tomi Bergstrom, Western Basin coordinator for the DEP’s Nonpoint Source Program.

Bergstrom coordinated the Sept. 12 event, which attracted students from Central, Holz, Kanawha City, Chesapeake, Lakewood and West Side elementary schools.

“Many of the children had never seen live stream bugs before, which was quite clear as they crowded around the trays



It was a day of fun and learning for area grade school students at the annual Charleston Water Festival. Project WET Coordinator Kim Maxwell said the festival “creates a powerful bond” among the DEP staff who help run the event at the Capitol. “There is pride and a sense of ownership because it is a really great event that the DEP is sponsoring and coordinating for the community,” Maxwell said.

full of them, asking more questions than the presenters could answer,” Bergstrom said. “I know they learned a lot in one



See **FESTIVAL**, Page 5



Reward and Recognition

Approximately three years ago, AML staffers Justin Haymond, Jim Baczuk, Jon Knight and Sheila Vukovich (pictured above left to right, along with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman) were tasked with overseeing and conducting the operation and maintenance of seven in-stream dosers along Three Fork Creek and Abram Creek. These employees also were instrumental in the planning, design, and construction of the dosers.

Because of their dedication, both watersheds have seen significant improvement and have demonstrated that in-stream dosing is an effective means of treating watersheds degraded by acid mine drainage.

They often worked long days, weekends and holidays while trouble-shooting problems that always seemed to occur at inopportune times.

Calendar photo contest entries due by Oct. 1

Those wishing to submit entries for the 11th annual West Virginia Operation Wildflower “Roadsides in Bloom” calendar photo contest have until Oct. 1, 2013. The contest is sponsored by the state departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation.

Judges will be looking for the best photographs of West Virginia wildflowers to include in the 2014 “Roadsides in Bloom” calendar. Photos must be taken in West Virginia.

Twelve winners will be selected to represent the months of the year and a grand prize winner’s photo will be displayed on the calendar cover. Contest rules are:

- Entries must be submitted as an 8x10 color print and must be landscape orientation. Portrait orientation will not be accepted. It is best to submit a digital copy on a CD at the same time.
- Flowers photographed must be growing along a West Virginia road and the road must be prominently visible in the photo. Flowers may be

See **PHOTO**, Page 4

Employees of the Month



Jeff McCauley, AML, Bridgeport

July Employee of the Month Jeff McCauley has been a true asset to the Northern Region construction group of the AML program.

He continually strives to fulfill AML’s mission of reclaiming abandoned mine lands, while creating a positive environment for the individuals he supervises. While working diligently with his employees, McCauley also has assisted in the training of the new regional engineer.

While maintaining past projects consumes much of his time, McCauley continues to work on creating a new tracking system for projects and a more strategic approach.



Delbert Shriver, Dam Safety, Fairmont

September Employee of the Month Delbert Shriver, of the DWWM’s Dam Safety Program, has a wide technical knowledge when it comes to dam safety. He has the ability to negotiate difficult relationships with positive outcomes, and is able to maintain flexibility, while enforcing safety standards.

One of his most recent accomplishments was the oversight of engineering review and inspection activity for the construction of four dams on the Boy Scout Jamboree property in Fayette County.

Flu shots available from 1-3:30 Sept. 30

The Kanawha-Charleston Health Department will provide flu shots to DEP employees from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30 in the Coopers Rock Conference Room. Employees should bring their insurance card and a completed registration form (*available from Erin.C.Creelman@wv.gov*). Family members are welcome to attend, but shots will not be provided to small children.

PHOTO

Continued from Page 3

growing naturally or in an Operation Wildflower bed planted by the Division of Highways. Pictures of cultivated species planted in arranged beds, such as marigolds, pansies, etc., do not qualify.

- Name, address, phone number, e-mail address (if available) and a short description of the photo, including location and county where it was taken, must appear in the upper left-hand corner on the back of the photo. Photos will not be returned.

- No more than three entries per person. One winning photo will be selected from any photographer’s entries. Winners will be required to submit a digital copy of the photo.

Entries should be mailed to: WV Operation Wildflower, Roadsides in Bloom Calendar Contest, WV Department of Environmental Protection/REAP, 601 57th St., S.E., Charleston, WV 25304.

The state’s Operation Wildflower beautification program is a joint effort between the DEP and the West Virginia Division of Highways.

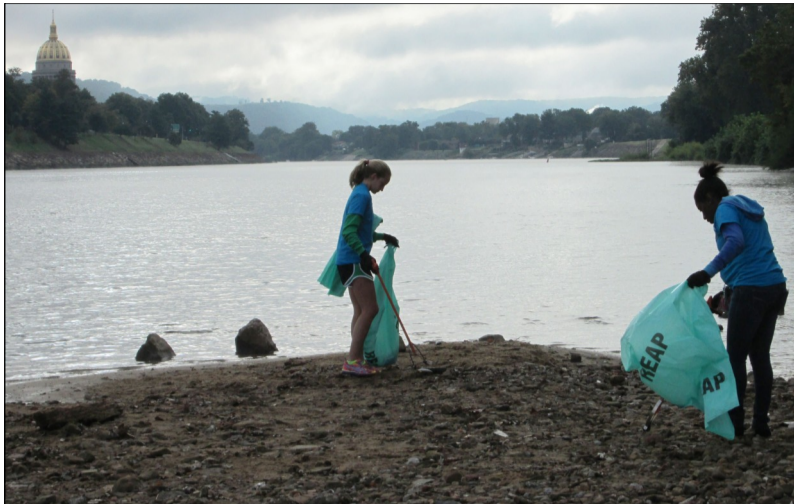
It includes more than 250 acres of wildflowers grown on West Virginia’s roadways.

For more information about the calendar or the rules of the contest, call the DEP’s Adopt-A-Highway Program at 1-800-322-5530.

DEP Interns

Twenty-one interns worked at the DEP this summer and a few remain on the job. Following is a list of those who spent their summers with the agency and in what division they worked:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Jayson Canady | DAQ |
| Nathan Carte | DAQ |
| Megan Chestnut | OOG |
| Kelly Cochran | DWWM |
| Brittney Cook | DMR |
| Travis Howard | DMR |
| Cody Howdyshell | DMR |
| Brianne Huddleston | DMR |
| Sara Ireland | DAQ |
| Hannah Keller | ADM |
| Benjamin Lusk | DMR |
| Sarah Mandirola | DWWM |
| Cory Mays | REAP |
| Matthew Pack | DLR |
| Jenna Palmer | DWWM |
| Sarah Phipps | DMR |
| Jesse Proctor | AML |
| Rachel Shook | DWWM |
| Shannon Straley | DWWM |
| Stephen Wick | DWWM |
| Jeremiah Yates | DLR |



Great Kanawha River Cleanup

Close to 120 volunteers took part in the annual Great Kanawha River Cleanup on Sept. 14. Sponsored by the DEP’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) program, the event included cleanups at several locations along the river in Kanawha and Putnam counties. A number of new cleanup locations were added this year, including the South Charleston and Verizon boat ramps.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 3

day, but I think the hands-on practice makes a big impression on them. It keeps them thinking about water and how it affects them on a daily basis.

“As the children were leaving, I overheard one girl ask another how she had so many blue beads (on her bracelet from a water cycle activity) and the girl responded, ‘I got stuck in the ocean and glacier; they’re really huge you know.’”

Several DEP staffers took part in the Water Festival, including Project WET Coordinator Kim Maxwell.

“Everything went very smoothly,” Bergstrom said. “I had many of the same volunteers helping me out as last year and they were great at doing things before I even asked them.”

Agency transactions

Recent DEP hires

► **Stephanie Boyd**

Administration

► **Robert Brooks**

Division of Water, Waste Management

► **Thomas Cazad**

Division of Water, Waste Management

► **Kylie Lancaster**

Division of Water, Waste Management

► **Vicky Osborne**

Division of Mining and Reclamation

► **Christina Radeski**

Division of Water, Waste Management

► **Charles Sizemore**

Abandoned Mine Lands

Internal Transfers

► **Sandra Horton**

Division of Mining and Reclamation

► **Ashley LeMasters**

Office of Oil and Gas

► **Travis Parsons**

Abandoned Mine Lands

Agency picnic slated for Oct. 2

The Department of Environmental Protection’s annual employee appreciation picnic is set for Wednesday, Oct. 2, at Little Creek Park in South Charleston.

The park’s activity complex, known as “The Rock,” will be the site of the noon event.

All activities are set to begin immediately after lunch and will include horseshoes, corn hole and bingo.

At 2:30, the presentation of Years of Service certificates and door prizes will begin.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman traditionally hands out the Years of Service Certificates.

Youth Conference set to begin Oct. 4 in Flatwoods

By Colleen O’Neill

Beginning Oct. 4 and continuing through Oct. 6, the DEP’s Youth Environmental Program will converge on the Flatwoods Days Inn and Conference Center. YEP is holding its annual conference for young West Virginians, ages 13 to 18.

The youth will experience workshops, presentations, field trips, contests, and idea sharing. Among the activities slated for the first day are a hike and a workshop on sustainable agriculture, presented by Doolarie Singh-Knights, West Virginia



This year’s Youth Environmental Conference is scheduled for Oct. 4-6 in Flatwoods. The event is filled with environmental activities for young people between the ages of 13 and 18.

See YOUTH, Page 7



Chad Carmichael, from the Office of Oil and Gas, works out on one of three new treadmills in the DEP exercise room, located on the first floor of agency headquarters in Charleston.

Exercise room gets equipment upgrade

By Colleen O'Neill

The Department of Environmental Protection's exercise room at its Charleston headquarters has three new treadmills, complete with arm rests and lighted control screens. The three replaced treadmills had burned out motors due to an overloaded circuit. Who knew that walking could blow circuits?

"We learned that the motors of three of the treadmills were nearly burned out," said Erin Creelman, the agency Wellness coordinator. "The motors burned out due to the lack of a dedicated circuit for each treadmill. Because of the age of the treadmills, it was more cost effective to order new ones."

Employees noticed problems, like speedometers showing incorrect speed and running "rough."

"We had Bob White of Mid-Atlantic Fitness, who we purchased the original treadmills from, come in to repair the equipment. He noted that the motors were nearly useless," Creelman said.

General Services installed dedicated circuits to each treadmill. "This required some rewiring of the exercise room," Creelman said. "Once General Services completed the new wiring, we sent the 'dead' treadmills to surplus and completed installation of the new ones."

The new treadmills have been operational since Sept. 10.

"Having the treadmills for employees is so important because walking is a great exercise," Creelman said. "It burns calories

See EXERCISE, Page 8

Additional grant money available for water projects

The state Division of Water and Waste Management's Nonpoint Source Program is issuing an announcement of Additional Grant Opportunity (AGO) for proposals that focus on nonpoint source pollution issues.

The total amount available is approximately \$100,000 and both one- and two-year proposals are being accepted.

All project submittals will be reviewed by the DWWM's Nonpoint Source Team.

The team will then ask for a formal proposal from those projects that best fit the goals and objectives of the Nonpoint Source Program. Projects chosen will be notified by e-mail. Formal proposals (work plans) are required within 30 days of notification.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 10, 2013. For more information review the AGO Web site at: <http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsource/Pages/AGO.aspx>. Initial proposals must be submitted using the online form found on this Web page.

Nonpoint source water pollution can come from many sources, including excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas; oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff; sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands; eroding streambanks; acid drainage from abandoned mines; and bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems.

AGOs can focus on nonpoint issues in water bodies that may not be impaired or provide money for special projects not typically funded through watershed project grants.

Proposals are accepted from a wide variety of organizations, including watershed groups, schools and businesses.

DEP retirements

Henry Armentrout

AML

Last day: Oct. 31, 2013

Years of service: 25

Mary Ann Nicely

AML

Last day: Oct. 31, 2013

Years of service: 24

Roger Henry

DMR

Last day: Oct. 31, 2013

Years of service: 20

Adopt-A-Highway

Word is spreading about AAH program

By Colleen O'Neill

Every year when the weather starts changing and the leaves start falling, the Adopt-A-Highway program holds its statewide fall cleanup. On Sept. 28, groups across the state will work together, each cleaning up their own designated area of roadway. West Virginia will shine from this collective effort.

Sherry Thaxton, the AAH coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection, said 388 groups are registered for the fall cleanup. That's 4,326 volunteers.

"We've already surpassed last fall's total," she said. The 2012 fall AAH cleanup attracted 3,793 volunteers. Last spring's cleanup was bolstered by 5,506 workers.

Thaxton believes a decision to place billboards throughout the state touting both the spring and fall AAH cleanups is paying off in numbers.

"The billboards seem to be working," she said. "We've got 11 or 12 across the state."

It's not too late to sign up to participate in the fall cleanup. To register, call 1-800-322-5530, or send an email to dep.aah@wv.gov.

What if you have a cleanup scheduled at a different time? If the cleanup is held a week before



AAH billboards, like the one pictured above in the Kanawha Valley, have paid dividends in terms of volunteer numbers.

or after Sept. 28, it still counts toward the statewide cleanup.

So, just why do we need all of these surveys?

By Tom Aluise

And the survey says ...

Well, what it says actually can be very important to helping an agency identify problems and potential solutions to those problems. It can also assist leaders in learning what their employees really want and need.

Those are the ideas behind a flurry of surveys emailed to workers at the Department of Environmental Protection over the past several months.

The surveys, distributed by the agency's Office of Administration and the DEP internal auditor, are focused on employee needs for training and for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), as well as worker satisfaction and engagement.



Jamie Chambers, the DEP's internal auditor, said she is on the same page with Office of Administration Chief Melinda Campbell and Human Resources Manager Chad Bailey when it comes to the usefulness of surveys.

"Based on conversations and meetings I have attended with Melinda and Chad, I believe that one of the things we have in common is that we all want to

help the agency be the best it can be and to help people as they work toward that same goal," Chambers said.

"Each of us will have a different approach, but it appears that we all agree that we want to know what people at our agency think," she added. "Surveys are the best way to do this."

Bailey initiated the recent DEP Employee Survey as a means to measure employee engagement. The deadline to complete the survey is Sept. 30.

"Employee engagement is the emotional commitment the employee has to the organization and its goals," Bailey said. "This emotional commitment means engaged employees actually care

See SURVEYS, Page 8

YOUTH

Continued from Page 5

University extension specialist.

Saturday daytime activities include a glass blowing demonstration, a visit to a wildlife center, a stop by a horizontal gas well pad and a trip to a farm that specializes in fresh, regional produce. Lunch will be provided by Dale Hawkins, of the New Appalachian Farm and Research

Center.

An environmental program, recycling contest and group reports, based on information obtained from the tours, are on tap for Saturday evening. Sunday morning features a motivational program and an exchange of project ideas before departing. A limited number of scholarships are provided to Youth Environmental Program members on a first-come, first-

serve basis.

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

For information on the conference or the Youth Environmental Program, contact Diana Haid at 304-926-0499, Ext. 1114 or email diana.k.haid@wv.gov.

AML

Continued from Page 1

July of 2010 and set out to improve water quality and aesthetics on a stream that had been rendered virtually lifeless by years of polluted mine drainage from pre-law coal operations in the area.

Working with West Virginia University and a local watershed group, DEP's AML program placed four lime dosers in the heavily impacted headwater tributaries of Three Fork Creek. It wasn't long before improvements were seen.

Three Fork, once known as a premier trout stream, soon became supportive of recreational activities once again. Fish and bug habitat improved as well.

Pre-dosing surveys conducted on the creek in 2010 turned up but one fish.

Just a year and a half after the Three Fork project commenced, a second fish



NAAMLPL President Todd Coffelt (fourth from left), presents representatives from the DEP's Abandoned Mine Lands program with the NAAMLPL Appalachian Regional Award for the Three Fork Creek project. From left: Sheila Vukovich, Jonathan Knight, Justin Haymond and AML Chief Robert Rice.

sampling resulted in 1,605 total fish caught and released.

"In about 18 months, this stream went from nothing to

having thousands of fish," Rice said. "I don't know of any other projects out there that can take that kind of credit."

EXERCISE

Continued from Page 6

and tones muscles. And everyone knows how to, so there's no need to learn a new skill.

"But what people don't know is that walking does so much more.

Regular treadmill walking can reduce your risk for Type 2 diabetes, pre-diabetes,

degenerative arthritis, high blood pressure, depression, insomnia, and breast and colon cancer."

Creelman also pointed out that walking around 150 minutes per week helps improve your mood and feelings of well-being.

"Exercise is a proven, healthy way to release stress and cope with

situations," she said. "Rather than get upset with a co-worker, or fret about a deadline, take a brisk walk. It'll clear your head and help your mood."

And also your work performance.

"It makes you more alert and increases productivity," Creelman said.

"When you exercise,

you are also increasing blood flow to the brain, which can help sharpen your awareness and make you more ready to tackle your next big project.

"A neat benefit is that exercise can help reduce your risk of developing certain types of illness and disease, which means taking fewer sick days at work."

SURVEYS

Continued from Page 7

about their work and the agency. When employees are engaged with their work, they're more fulfilled, more productive and more motivated to satisfy customer needs.

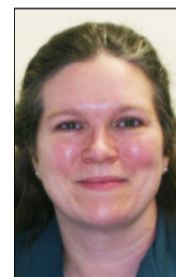
"They don't work just for a paycheck, or just for the next promotion, but work on behalf of the agency's goals. Employee engagement is an important driver of organizational success."

Chambers' ongoing survey seeks to gauge DEP personnel interest in learning the best ways to develop SOPs.

"The goal of the SOP needs assessment survey is to create a customized training for DEP related to SOPs," Chambers said. "During this process, suggestions will also be made to Administration to develop some established guidelines. These guidelines should simplify what should be included in an SOP; to take the guess work out of it. I will be working with Administration to develop tools to make developing SOPs an easier process."

More surveys could be down the road and Chambers encourages everyone to take part. A quick trigger on the keyboard delete button will do nothing to influence positive change in the agency.

"... Your idea or suggestion may be an eye-opener and the doorway to positive change that will make things better for all of us."



Jamie Chambers
DEP internal auditor

"In a recent conversation with Melinda, she told me that she is committed to change," Chambers said. "When a survey comes out, why not add your opinions so they can at least be taken into consideration? I challenge everyone; let your voice be heard. What is the worst that can happen? Your idea may not be acted on. However, your idea or suggestion may be an eye-opener and the doorway to positive change that will make things better for all of us."