



Carpooling

Necessity is the mother of invention, right? Having participated in previous DEP Make It Shine cleanups, this young volunteer knew hauling bags of trash — and other debris — to a central collection area wasn't always easy. So, for this year's Great Kanawha River Cleanup, she

convinced her parents to bring along the family's motorized toy car to Magic Island in Charleston, where several volunteers turned out for the Sept. 8 event, despite rainy weather. The car came in handy, especially for transporting discarded plastic swimming pools (above).

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A look back

Photos give employees, visitors glimpse of area before the DEP

By Colleen O'Neill

The elevator lobby entrance to the Division of Air Quality in the Charleston headquarters is taking a trip back in time.

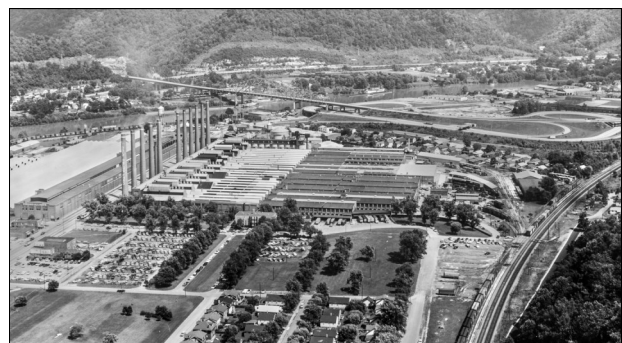
In a continuing effort to spruce up the interior of the DEP building, as well as educate employees and the public, photos will be displayed of Kanawha City where agency

headquarters currently are located, both before DEP and after.

"We thought it was important to share the

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Top, this 1960s-era photo shows the Libbey-Owens glass plant, across 57th Street from what is now the DEP. Below is a recent photo of the DEP building, with the former Libbey-Owens site outlined.





Workers gather and load part of the 70,000 pounds of electronics that were dropped off at DEP headquarters during a free electronics recycling event on Sept. 15.

Unplugged

DEP e-cycling event popular with public

By Tom Aluise

It was an odd sight: the Department of Environmental Protection's Kanawha City parking lot full of vehicles on a Saturday.

But it was for a good cause.

The agency sponsored a free electronics recycling day for the public on Sept. 15.

The event was wildly popular, drawing nearly 500 cars and trucks, loaded with discarded televisions, computers, printers and other electronics.

By the end of the day, more than 70,000 pounds of electronics (35 tons) had been stuffed into



Hundreds of vehicles weaved through the DEP parking lot to drop off items.

four trucks and sent off for recycling.

"Thirty-five tons is more than I thought we'd get," said Sandy

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Conference headed to Hawks Nest

Hawks Nest Resort State Park will host this year's Youth Environmental Conference on Oct. 12-14.

The 37th annual event is sponsored by the DEP's Youth Environmental Program and is for YEP members ages 13-18.



Activities planned this year include a program on vehicle idling and emissions; a tour to the National Park Service New River Gorge Bridge Canyon Rim Visitor Center and Fayette Station; and a Timber Trek aerial adventure at Adventures on the Gorge.

Conference leaders will be from the DEP and Division of Natural Resources.

For more information on the Youth Environmental Program go to:

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/pio/YEP/Pages/default.aspx>.

Solar project on display

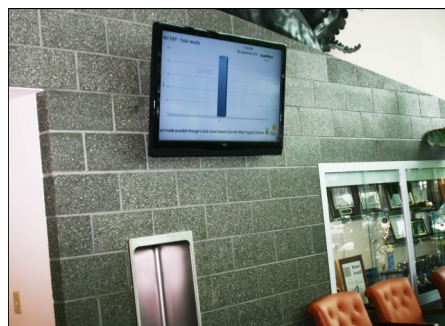
The solar project at DEP is now online and on TV in the agency headquarters' lobby.

The project is making electricity and hot water and its performance can be monitored in real time both online and on the lobby's TV monitor.

"This is a great resource for educating folks about renewable energy and its strengths and challenges," said the DEP's Greg Adolfson, who is coordinating the solar project.

"You will find useful information such as output, CO₂ saved, and income," Adolfson said.

Go to <http://www.suntrol-portal.com/en/page/wv-dep> to monitor how the system is doing and follow day-to-day operations.



A TV monitor in the DEP lobby gives real-time updates of the agency's solar project.

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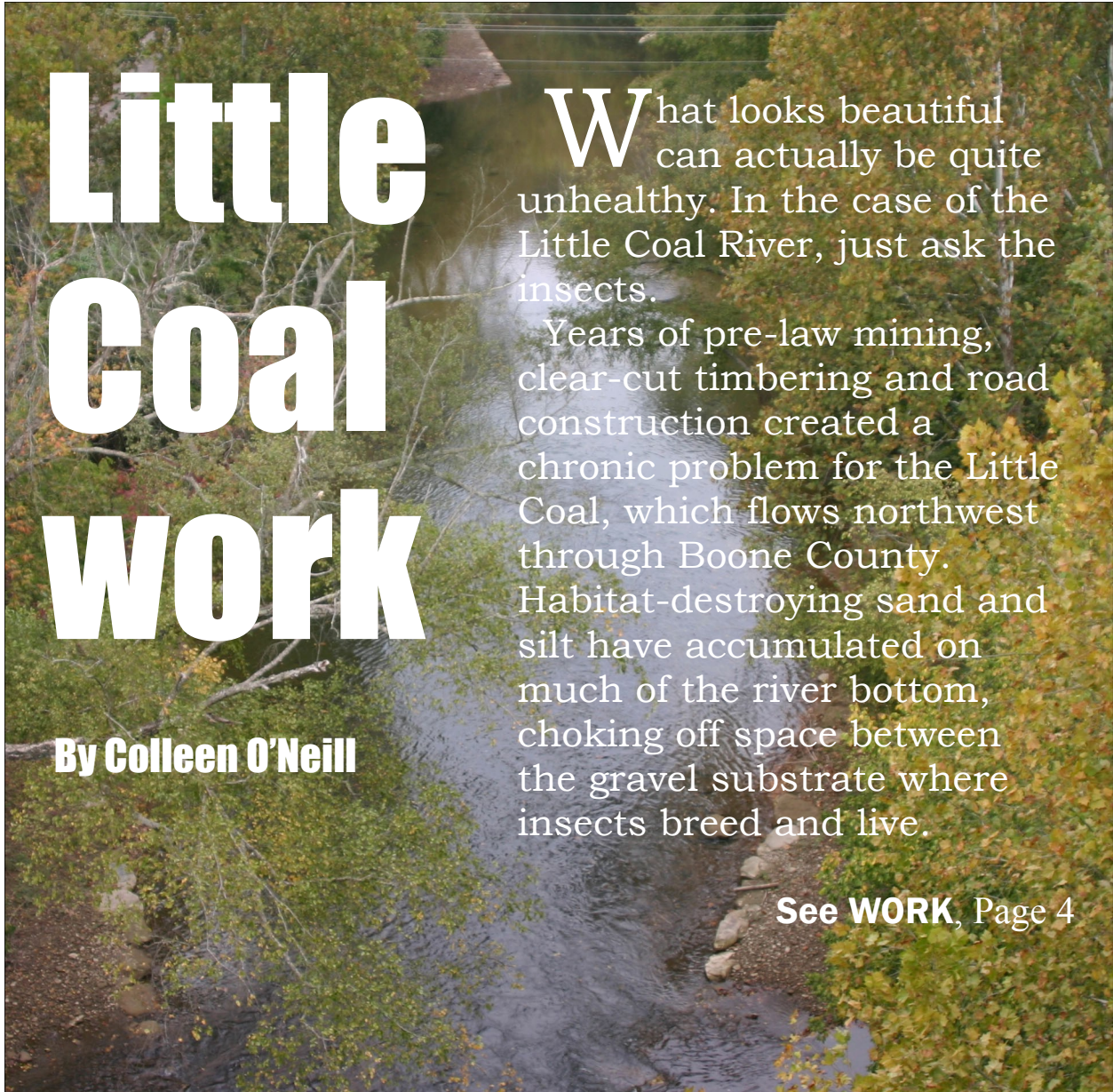
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Little Coal work

By Colleen O'Neill

What looks beautiful can actually be quite unhealthy. In the case of the Little Coal River, just ask the insects.

Years of pre-law mining, clear-cut timbering and road construction created a chronic problem for the Little Coal, which flows northwest through Boone County. Habitat-destroying sand and silt have accumulated on much of the river bottom, choking off space between the gravel substrate where insects breed and live.

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Brownfields Conference

Cleaning up brownfield properties and returning them to something useful presents both a challenge and an opportunity. That was the message at this year's annual Brownfields Conference, conducted Sept. 5-6 at the Glade Springs Resort in Daniels, Raleigh County. The theme for this year's conference was "Brownfields: Part of the Redevelopment Puzzle." The conference program included interactive workshops, presentations on sustainable energy, and a grant competition for the FOCUS program. Attendance included developers, community members, local and state government officials, and other professionals from around West Virginia.

Program popular with employees

By Colleen O'Neill

The Department of Environmental Protection's popular weight loss program, Waist Watchers, is in its third session.

The program helps you lose weight, increase your energy and learn more about healthy living. It is designed to help employees feel good about themselves, both on the outside and inside.

"This program will provide the tools needed to assist with achieving those goals," said Yvonne Anderson, one of the program's coordinators.

Waist Watchers is popular with employees. Why? It could be the low-cost of \$12 for three months. It could be the cash prizes for weight loss. The winners are calculated by averaging their weight loss. It could be the short, 30-minute meetings during lunch. For some, it still leaves time to run out and get lunch or run errands. Or it could be the flexibility, with everyone choosing the weight loss plan that works best

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“The sand limits the ability of aquatic insects to thrive. It reduces the habitat for fish to breed and feed,” said Dennis Stottlemeyer, an Environmental Resources Analyst with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Stottlemeyer has been heavily involved in past restoration efforts on the Little Coal and now is helping implement, along with the DEP’s Ashley LeMasters and other agencies, another major 15-mile improvement project on the river.

Stottlemeyer first became involved with the Little Coal in 2007, when he worked as the mitigation coordinator for DEP’s Division of Mining and Reclamation. Today, he works out of the DEP’s Office of Environmental Advocate, but is maintaining a role in river restoration.

“As mitigation coordinator for DMR, one of my jobs was to restore streams in West Virginia that had been affected by mining activities,” Stottlemeyer said. “I was very aware of the issues that the Little Coal River had and it seemed like a good candidate for the American Electric Power (AEP) restoration funds.”

Stottlemeyer explained that, as part of a 2007 settlement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, AEP agreed to provide \$24 million toward acquisition and restoration of ecologically significant areas in seven states. West Virginia received \$1.45 million toward the Little Coal River Restoration Project that will ultimately cost around \$3 million. DEP Stream Restoration Fund money will cover the remainder of the costs.

“I drafted the letter to AEP requesting funding for the Little Coal River Restoration Project and the Dobbins Slashing property and put together the settlement proposal in February 2008,” Stottlemeyer said. “The river is used by many people for recreational activities, like boating and fishing. A lot of different people and different agencies are getting involved to try and make things better.”

Today, the project is ready to fly, with work on the river set to begin soon.

The DEP’s LeMasters replaced Stottlemeyer as the DMR’s mitigation coordinator.

“I was an intern with DMR in 2006, and joined the agency permanently in 2007 as a biologist,” she said. “I had worked



The Little Coal River project will include restoration structures similar to this, which are already in place on several miles of the river. The structures are designed to speed up the current on the Little Coal and improve habitat.



At left is a restoration structure just upstream from where work will start on a new 15-mile restoration project on the Little Coal. At right is an example of one of the major problems on the river — a sand-filled bottom.

with Dennis when the plans for this restoration project were in the early stages.”

The DEP is partnering with the West Virginia Conservation Agency on the Little Coal project, which took root some 30 years ago when the state Division of Highways, during construction of Corridor G, began randomly placing boulders in the river to speed up its current in an effort to reduce sediment and create habitat.

“You can imagine in 30 years how much technology and design has improved on what we can do for natural stream design,” LeMasters said.

Since that DOH effort, the Little Coal has benefitted from additional restoration projects implemented by state agencies and coal companies.

The latest effort, which will include the construction of 198 in-stream structures, will help increase the transportation of sediment, improve water quality and help maintain navigation for recreational boating. Fish and insect habitat will improve markedly.

LeMasters explained that in-stream structures such as strategically placed boulders and logs, will control grade and stabilize banks throughout the project area from Danville, 15

miles downstream to McCorkle. All structures will function to preserve a stable width-depth ratio, maintain sediment transport capacity, decrease near-bank stress, and maintain channel capacity.

The structures also will allow fish passage at all flows and recreational boating opportunities will remain throughout the project area, LeMasters said.

LeMasters said research has proven the effectiveness of restoration structures in bringing habitat back into areas where it has been lost due to over-widening of a stream and subsequent issues with low flow and increased sediment.

R.E.I. Consulting did the preliminary design for the latest Little Coal project, and Stantec Inc. is the project engineer.

“DEP is tasked with the planning, but to do this properly we have a committee, which is made up of myself and Dennis from DEP, and Judy Lyons, Ross Tuckwiler, and John Nelson from the Conservation Agency,” LeMasters said. “We discuss possible solutions and come up with the most feasible solution.”

“For this project, the labor is being contracted out. The Conservation Agency has hired a

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Awards, Recognition



Carrie Grimm — May EOM
DWWM, Charleston

Grimm’s year-long effort to identify and verify state projects for the EPA’s Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, a national database that lists projects that impact water quality issues in the states, produced a documented need of \$3.1 billion, up from \$2.8 billion in the previous survey for West Virginia.

The Watersheds Needs Survey provides to Congress a scope of work and cost estimates of what it would take to upgrade all the waters of the U.S. to compliance.



Debbie Martin — August EOM
Information Technology, Charleston

Martin understands and has applied the rules and regulations, policies and procedures in implementing new development and enhancement to ERIS or ePermitting.

She went beyond development and continues to streamline the compliance section in ERIS for NPDES. Martin has also represented the agency well on many different levels, from training and support, to presentations on a national level. She also always comes through during tight deadlines.



Dave Porter — Reward & Recognition
DAQ, Charleston

Porter is the database administrator and technical support person in the Emissions Inventory Unit of the Planning Section of DAQ. He successfully assumed the lead role in providing technical evaluations and support to implement new emissions data collection, processing and reporting software for the state.

His ability to provide effective technical support has been invaluable and will allow DAQ to collect and report data, while minimizing the reporting burden on the regulated community.



Ed Andrews (left), from the Division of Air Quality, talks to elementary school students about acid rain during the Children’s Water Festival last month on the grounds of the State Capitol.

Water Festival a hit on Capitol grounds

By Colleen O’Neill

Children’s smiles and squeals of delight come to Tomi Bergstrom’s mind when she reflects on this year’s Children’s Water Festival.

And she, in turn, gets a smile on her face.

“It was enjoyable watching the kids play and splash in the water,” said Bergstrom, the DEP’s Western Basin Coordinator for the DWWM’s Non-Point Source program.

Bergstrom coordinated the Sept. 14 Water Festival, which was conducted on the State Capitol grounds — north side, near the fountain — for the first time.

“We had a balance,” Bergstrom said. “There were parts where the kids listened, and there were parts where they got to get their hands involved. We kept their attention and I believe they learned.”

The Water Festival taught close to 240 fifth-graders from

Belle, Bridgeview, Bridge, Alum Creek and Andrew Heights elementary schools about water conservation, preservation, pollution, and its cycle.

“This was my first year planning and coordinating this event,” Bergstrom said. “We had 10 stations spread out in the space in front of the golden dome. The weather cooperated and the kids enjoyed themselves in an outdoor classroom for the day and learned a great deal regarding water.”

The stations showed how the many different aspects of water overlap.

“If you have a stream with no bugs, there is a problem,” Bergstrom said. “We had two stations that had pictures or live examples of the macroinvertebrates and mussels you would expect to find in a healthy watershed. The children were able to

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Close to 240 fifth-graders from Belle, Bridgeview, Bridge, Alum Creek and Andrew Heights elementary schools participated in the Water Festival.



This volunteer braved rainy weather to collect trash on the banks of the Kanawha River at Magic Island in Charleston during the DEP's Great Kanawha River Cleanup.

Inspired workers turn out to make river shine

By Colleen O'Neill

Despite a chill in the air and the periodic pelting of rain, more than 75 volunteers came out to join Make-It-Shine and clean up the Kanawha River.

"I am inspired by the drive of people to make and keep our state clean," said Travis Cooper, the state MIS coordinator. "Every fall, we hold the Great Kanawha River Cleanup. And every year, people give up their Saturday to come out and help."

This year's Great Kanawha River Cleanup was conducted on Sept. 8 at various locations along the river.

Volunteers invested 288 man hours to remove nearly two tons of debris and 21 tires from the banks of the river.

"The volunteers really worked hard," Cooper said. "MIS had six sites, spread out over three of the counties that the river runs through."

The sites included: Kanawha

Falls, Winfield Locks, Daniel Boone Park, Magic Island in Charleston, Campbells Creek, and Roadside Park in St. Albans.

"This year marked the 23rd year MIS held this event," said Cooper. "And every year, there's no shortage of people who care about the look and health of our environment. Like I said, it's inspiring."

Since Cooper joined the Department of Environmental Protection's MIS program in 2007, there has been a total of 576 volunteers for the Kanawha River Cleanup. They have removed 361 tires, and collected 30.35 tons of litter.

The DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan supplies gloves, bags, trash-reachers, and arranges for the collected trash to be hauled away.

For more information about the MIS program, please contact Cooper at 304-926-0449 ext. 1117, or email at Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov.

DEP employee has major role in scary plot

A popular Kanawha Valley Halloween attraction has a new location and a DEP flavor.

The Haunted Barn has moved from Winfield to Beauregard Street in Charleston, occupying the former SportMart warehouse.

Lawrence Burgess, who works for the DEP's Abandoned Mine Lands program, and is an aspiring filmmaker, both helped direct and develop the music for the haunted

house.

He'll also play an active role as an actor in the production. Lee Jordan, one of The Haunted Barn's owners is Burgess' cousin.

Hours for The Haunted Barn are Oct. 6, 7 p.m.-12; Oct. 12, 9 p.m.-1; Oct. 13, 7 p.m.-12; Oct. 19, 9 p.m.-1; Oct. 20, 7 p.m.-12; Oct. 26, 9 p.m.-1; Oct. 27, 7 p.m.-2; Nov. 3, 7 p.m.-12; Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-2.

Admission is \$10.

DAQ interns visit plants

By Jeanne Chandler

Summer interns from the DEP's Division of Air Quality took a break from their daily routines to get a closer look at power generation at three of West Virginia's pulverized coal-fired power plants.

The tours were arranged to American Electric Power's (AEP) Philip Sporn and Mountaineer plants located in New Haven, and GenPower's Longview power plant, located in Madsville, near Morgantown.

The DAQ's intern coordinator and electrical engineer, Laura Crowder, organized the trips.

Interns Nathan Settle, Matt Harman, and Brittany Ireland were familiarized with the Mountaineer plant by plant Manager Charles Powell, who used a detailed diagram to highlight each of the processes.

The Mountaineer plant has one 1,300 megawatt (MW) unit, and is equipped with electrostatic precipitators (ESPs) for particulate control, selective catalytic reduction (SCRs) for nitrogen oxide (NOx) control and wet scrubbers for sulfur dioxide (SO₂) control.

The interns' tour of the plant included an explanation of the various processes and a view of the plant, coal piles, and conveyor belts from the roof of the boiler.

As one can imagine, the temperature inside the 20-story boiler building can be quite

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VISIT

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warm and stories were told of workers' boots getting stuck to the grates on occasion.

Fortunately for the DAQ group, a cloudy day was a welcome relief from the heat of the boiler and an ambient temperature in the mid-90s.

In 2008, Mountaineer was part of a pilot project for the sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) into deep underground formations.

The sequestration project captured a 20-MW slip stream of flue gas, removed the CO₂, then compressed and injected the CO₂ into two deep underground formations more than 7,000 feet below the surface of the plant property. The project successfully operated from 2009 to 2011, capturing and storing over 51,000 tons of CO₂.

The project was suspended due to costs.

The Philip Sporn plant was built in the early 1950's with four 150 MW units, and upgraded in 1960 with the addition of a 450 MW unit, one of the first sub-critical units.

The addition of electrostatic precipitators in the late 1970's made



Division of Air Quality interns Matt Harman and Zac Griffith, far left, take a tour of the Longview coal-fired power plant, located near Morgantown.

the original plant resemble a giant octopus with multiple tentacles.

The Sporn plant is not equipped with SCRs and scrubbers for NO_x and SO₂ control, but is equipped with selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) for NO_x control.

The 450 MW unit has been permanently shutdown, and the remaining units are scheduled to shut down in 2015.

Improvements are limited to routine maintenance, however all four remaining boilers were operating the day of our tour to meet electricity demand. Two other AEP plants in West Virginia, Kammer and Kanawha River, are scheduled to be closed in 2015.

Three other pulverized coal plants in West Virginia — Albright,

Rivesville, and Willow Island — which are part of the First Energy system, are scheduled to be shut down in 2012.

All six plants were built before or during the 1950's and have operated well beyond their original design life of 30-40 years.

"It was very interesting to see the process and hard work that goes into generating electricity," said intern Brittany Ireland.

"I have gained a deeper appreciation for my electricity after learning of the materials, manpower, and money that go into this process.

"From an air quality perspective, I enjoyed hearing about their efforts to preserve our environment while serving their customers."

In addition to the New Haven plant tour, the

interns also headed north to Madsville for a tour of GenPower's Longview power plant.

Longview Power is located outside Morgantown and began operations in 2011. Most often, power plants are identified by the water vapor plumes coming from massive cooling towers, but not so at Longview, where the battery of smaller cooling towers are enclosed in a warehouse-like structure. The 770-megawatt plant was designed with efficiency as a top priority.

For instance, the coal used to fuel the advanced supercritical boiler comes straight from a nearby mine and requires no washing or preparation; an overland conveyor delivery system reduces truck traffic and delivery cost. Also, limestone, a critical element in removing sulfur dioxide, is supplied by a local quarry.

The tours of the three pulverized coal-fired power plants provided a great opportunity for DAQ's summer interns to learn about power generation and the development of the various equipment and processes designed to control air emissions over the past 60 years.

Watershed groups honored for work

The Berkeley Springs-based Warm Springs Run Watershed Association was named the 2012 Watershed Association of the Year by the West Virginia Watershed Network.

Warm Springs Run volunteers were recognized for their ability to create partnerships, to spread the word on how good streams go bad, and their foresight to take a proactive approach by developing a comprehensive watershed restoration plan.

Warm Springs Run received its honor at the recent Watershed Celebration Day, hosted by the Coal River Group at its Science and Education Center in Tornado.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection was among the sponsors of the 14th annual event.

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Kate Lehman, of the Warm Springs Run Watershed Association, is recognized during the recent Watershed Celebration Day. Her group was selected as the state's Watershed Association of the Year by the West Virginia Watershed Network.

GROUPS

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More than 100 volunteers from around the state attended Watershed Celebration Day and were recognized for their efforts in protecting and restoring local watersheds.

The Watershed Network is an informal association of interests with a mission to collaboratively support efforts and provide resources necessary to empower local residents to make decisions for sustainable management of their resources.

This year's Watershed Celebration Day theme and program were developed around information on river trails.

"After all of these years, watershed volunteers are still excited to come out to talk with one another and learn about new programs and projects that they can take home to their watersheds," said Jennifer Pauer, Watershed Basin coordinator for the DEP. "It is also nice that volunteers get to be recognized in front of their peers for the work they have done all year. These folks volunteer because they care about our natural resources and are willing to give their time for that cause. West Virginia is lucky to have them."

The Watershed Network recognized 16 watershed groups and one individual for their hard work and commitment in protecting and restoring streams, as well as educating their communities about the importance of watershed protection.

Watershed Honors

The following groups were honored recently by the West Virginia Watershed Network:

Watershed Group of the Year

- Warm Springs Run, Berkeley Springs

Partners

- North Fork Watershed Association, Davis
- Plateau Action Network, Fayetteville

Project Implementation

- Coal River Group, St. Albans
- Opequon Creek Project Team, Martinsburg
- Sleepy Creek Watershed Association, Berkeley Springs

Outreach and Education

- Buckhannon River Watershed Association, Buckhannon
- Friends of Deckers Creek, Morgantown
- Friends of the Lower Greenbrier River, Alderson
- Greenbrier River Watershed Association, Lewisburg
- Morris Creek Watershed Association, Montgomery
- Piney Creek Watershed Association, Beckley

Monitoring

- Davis Creek Watershed Association, Charleston
- Friends of the Cheat, Kingwood

Guiding Light

- Sarah Veselka, Friends of Deckers Creek

LOOK

Continued from Page 1

history of the area," said DAQ Director John Benedict. "Back in the early 1900's, there were some world production firsts, and now the environment is first, having its health and well-being safeguarded."

This area was home to the Libbey-Owens-Ford Sheet Glass Co., which, at one time, was the world's largest producer of flat glass.

Recalling his earlier years as an inspector for the former Air Pollution Control Commission, Benedict said he "had the opportunity and pleasure of inspecting the facility for compliance in the 1970's" and "was fascinated by the immense size and uniqueness of the glass-making machinery."

The area also included the Owens-Illinois Glass Co., which, in 1929, became the world's largest producer of bottles. It closed in 1963.

The idea to display photos of a time gone by came to the DAQ's Gene Coccari, while he was researching the air program.

Coccari came across an old electronic photo of the Libbey-Owens-Ford smoke stacks, which were located along MacCorkle Avenue, adjacent to the current DEP property.

Coccari took his idea and photos to Benedict, who thought



Steve Payne, of Steve Payne Photography, has been involved in the DEP's picture project from the start and helped hang the most-recent photos on the first floor.

the pictures focused on historic air quality and their related industries.

To convey the before-and-after look of the area, Coccari searched for and found a 1960s-era photo of the Libbey-Owens-Ford plant, which closed in 1980.

Another DAQ employee, Mike Rowe, took an aerial photo of the present-day DEP headquarters.

"I thought it was a great idea and gave it my blessing," said June Casto, chief of the DEP's Office of Administration.

Casto is spearheading the building's beautification effort, which has already included painting the main hallways and decorating the walls with photos

relating to the environment.

Coccari worked with the DAQ's Stephanie Hammonds to select photos, have them formatted and framed, and on composing the identification labels for the photos.

"We worked with Steve Payne, the photographer who was previously contracted for the pictures in our hallway," Hammonds said.

"Additionally, we discussed it and all felt we should have some sort of small engraved plaque beneath the DEP aerial shot that says, 'In memory of B.F. 'Cap' Smith,' for his efforts in the design and building of the DEP's consolidated headquarters."

AmeriCorps volunteers pitch in

By Tom Aluise

The young AmeriCorps volunteers probably would have preferred a leisurely canoe ride down the Coal River, but they were in West Virginia to work.

And on the Coal River, that meant removing tires ... a lot of them.

This summer, 11 AmeriCorps volunteers participated in a joint effort with the Department of Environmental Protection's REAP (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan) program and the Coal River Watershed Group to remove tires from the Little Coal and Coal Rivers.

"The project would not have been possible if not for the hard work of 11 AmeriCorps volunteers who were on assignment doing various projects for the Coal River Group," said REAP's Chris Cartwright.

The tire cleanup took place on five days during a two-week period this summer, beginning in late August.

"We were able to remove an



AmeriCorps workers played a major role this summer during a cleanup of the Little Coal and Coal rivers that was sponsored by the Coal River Watershed Group.

estimated 1,000 tires from the river during this time period," Cartwright said.

Cartwright said the cleanup project was planned about a month in advance after the Coal River Group contacted REAP and floated the idea of using

AmeriCorps volunteers to help with the problem of waste tires in the river.

"The sections of river that we worked on were sections that REAP had identified as problem areas in the past," Cartwright said.

PROGRAM

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for them. No square pegs in round holes.

"We usually have 30-plus employees register," Anderson said.

"We let everyone pick their eating and exercising plan," said Teresa Weaver, another program coordinator. "We're here to offer support, and any assistance we can give. We have everyone weigh themselves and report to me for the first three weeks of each month, and the fourth week we weigh them, and figure out the cash prizes.

"We also have a weekly prize drawing for those in attendance, and anyone present can win," she said.

Many employees have participated in more than one session, including Jamie Chambers.

"I want to be able to run around the yard with my grandkids like I did my kids when they were little," said Chambers, an Office of Administration employee. She has been active in all three sessions.

"Several years ago I had blood pressure problems due to being 'slightly' overweight," Chambers said. "I lost over 40 pounds, which corrected this health issue, but the weight has slowly crept back on. I decided to join Waist Watchers because I like the benefits of the meetings."

But Chambers got more than losing weight out of the program.

"The meetings help me be more conscious of healthy choices," she said. "Without that, I tend to not do so well with my food choices. Thanks to the meetings I have been able to stop going backward in my weight loss goals."

The latest session is already underway, but a new session will begin in January. An e-mail notification will be sent out when it's time for the new session to begin.

New Additions Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Heather Balladares, DLR
- ▶ Larry Barger, AML
- ▶ James Chapman, DWWM
- ▶ Mark Collins, DWWM
- ▶ Elizabeth Dues, DLR
- ▶ Brenda Justice, REAP
- ▶ Jamie Quinn, AML
- ▶ Cher Szerokman, OA
- ▶ Karen Aldridge, OOG
- ▶ Brian Bailey, DWWM
- ▶ Larry Board, OOG
- ▶ Kristi Hixenbaugh, DWWM
- ▶ Gayne Knitowski, OOG
- ▶ Sharon Mullins, DWWM
- ▶ Troy Vermillion, DWWM

FESTIVAL

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observe and handle the animals, which was a pretty memorable experience for them.”

Another station used a game like “Musical Chairs” to demonstrate how our actions can have negative impacts on nature.

“The National Park System showed how development and pollution can affect

water and therefore the species — bugs, fish, and birds living there,” Bergstrom said. “It challenged the children to critically think of solutions to the threats on the ecosystem.

“We taught the kids how spilling oil in the parking lot can affect the streams, and how dumping garbage on the ground can result in contaminated ground water,” Bergstrom said.

Different stations were

hits with the kids.

John Butterworth, of the Putnam County Office of Planning and Infrastructure, had an interactive demo on how a floodplain functions.

“I learned how to stay safe in a flood,” said Wyatt Henley, a student at Andrew Heights.

Henley was excited to be at the Water Festival because he is a fan of science.

“I like science because you get to learn about

plants, animals and other organisms — little creatures you’ve never heard of before,” he said.

Another fifth-grader at Andrew Heights, Bailey Gatens, also counts science as one of her favorite subjects.

“I wanted to learn more about the properties of water,” she said.

“When you dig deeper into things,” she added, “it makes it cooler and more interesting.”

UNPLUGGED

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Rogers, who coordinated the event for the DEP’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP).

REAP, along with MRM Recycling, sponsored the event with the goal of making it easy for the public to responsibly dispose of electronic devices.

“We were real happy,” Rogers said. “We’ll probably try and do it again next year.”

The 35 tons of material collected was the highest total for REAP since it began sponsoring free electronic recycling events throughout West Virginia a year ago. Additional free drop-off days are planned for later this year across the state.

West Virginia law prohibits TVs, computers and other electronics with video screens 4 inches and larger from being discarded into landfills. The law went into effect Jan. 1, 2011.

Electronics contain toxic materials such as lead, mercury and beryllium. Recyclers value discarded electronics for precious metals, plastics and glass.

Devices typically accepted at recycling events include televisions, computers, printers, copiers, zip drives, video game devices, electronic cables, laser and multifunction scanners, fax machines, laptops, mice, keyboards, speakers, Webcams, monitors, cables, hard drives, circuit boards, cell phones, CD players and tape players.

Rogers said televisions were the No. 1 item dropped off at REAP’s Sept. 15 collection, followed by computers.

WORK

Continued from Page 4

watershed technician and a watershed design specialist to oversee construction. They will be the lead designers and oversee future stream projects associated with the DEP and Conservation Agency partnership.”

This project is expected to be completed by December 2014, depending upon the weather and any unexpected circumstances.

“I think this project is a great opportunity to use money collected from coal mining penalties and settlements to improve the watershed,” LeMasters said. “The Little Coal River is used by many people, including myself and others at DEP, for fishing, boating, swimming, and other activities. This project will greatly improve the stream health of a large section of this river.”

DEP retirements**June Casto**

Administration

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 35**Loren Brent Wiles**

Division of Mining and Reclamation

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 32**Gregory Smith**

Abandoned Mine Lands

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 38**Phillip Brannon**

Abandoned Mine Lands

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 32**Karen Everett**

Division of Land Restoration

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 23**Larry Evans**

Information Technology

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 23**Michael Jackson**

Division of Land Restoration

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 8**Pat Adkins**

Division of Air Quality

Last day: October 31, 2012**Years of service:** 17**Judy Smith**

Administration

Last day: November 30, 2012**Years of service:** 36