

in depth

west virginia

department of environmental protection

Vol. 23, No. 7

October 2015

"FALL BACK!"

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Oct. 31!

Tired of Tires

DEP teams with local groups to address major issue

by Jake Glance

Sometimes, it might look like recovering tires from rivers and streams in West Virginia is one of those jobs that will never be finished. But don't tell that to the more than a dozen people who were up to their waists in the chilly waters of the Big Coal River earlier this month, reaching into the mud and muck to yank tires out of the riverbed.

"It does look like we are making some progress," said Dennis Stottlmyer of the DEP's Office of the Environmental Advocate.



These tires were recovered from less than a quarter of a mile of the Big Coal River near the Kanawha-Lincoln county border. The recovery effort on Oct. 5-7 was one of two major efforts to recover old tires from area rivers this fall.

"Before, you saw a lot of new tires. Now it seems like we are seeing older tires that have been in the water for a long time. So maybe people are throwing fewer tires into the river."

This effort on the Big Coal River near Alum Creek is the second major

river tire recovery in the Charleston area this fall. In September, the Great Kanawha River Cleanup resulted in the recovery of dozens of tires in just a handful of locations from Kanawha Falls in Glen Ferris to Magic Island in Charles-

see **TIRES**, Page 3

NASLR: Many States, One Goal

by Jake Glance

What does coal mining in West Virginia have in common with coal mining in Virginia? What do both have in common with iron mining in Minnesota? Or salt mining in New York?



Derek Giebell

Each of those mine sites has to be reclaimed eventually, and made useable once the mining operation is long gone.

That's where NASLR—the National Association of State Land Reclamationists—comes in.

"Iron, copper, gold, salt, quarrying operations ... any type of mining as far

as that goes falls under what we would be discussing as long as the state has a program for it," said Derek Giebell, an environmental inspector with the DEP's Division of Mining and Reclamation group in Philippi.

Derek serves as NASLR's secretary-treasurer and is also part of the group's Public Relations and Education Committee.

There are procedures that can be used to reclaim a coal mine or other types of mines. And organizations like NASLR provide an arena for the inspectors who oversee these projects to share experiences.

"Every state has laws that deter-

mine how the land needs to be put back and what you can do with that land when you're dealing with a specific type of mine. We have our laws in West Virginia and guidance from federal inspectors," Derek said.

"In a lot of respects, you do have the same types of techniques and ideas. The bigger challenge is the geology that goes along with mining—the types of environmental concerns that you're going to have to treat for to make sure it doesn't become a problem during mining or in the future."

see **NASLR**, Page 9

DEP Switches To KRONOS For Time Sheets

by Jake Glance

The DEP's nearly 900 employees are now using the KRONOS time management system to fill out time sheets and to submit requests for annual and sick leave.



The new system, which is being implemented in phases across all of state government, is designed to be easier to use.

All DEP employees should have received an email from Melinda Campbell, chief of the DEP's Business and Technology Office, detailing how to log in.

KRONOS comes with several time sheet features already filled out for employees. For example, employees with regular schedules will see their schedules already loaded and won't have to enter the hours per day worked, as with the current ERIS system.

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Feds Say Broken Rail Caused February's Mt. Carbon CSX Derailment

Federal Railroad Administration says rail defect missed during inspections

by Jake Glance

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has issued a report citing a vertical split head rail defect as the cause of the CSX train derailment in Mt. Carbon in February.

A vertical split head (VSH) rail defect is a fracture in the upper part of the rail.

The FRA also reported that the broken rail was missed during inspections of the track by CSX contractor Sperry Rail Service.

The FRA report said that CSX is required to perform annual internal rail inspections. CSX was performing inspections more often than was required, according to the FRA.

However, the report states that during two inspections in December 2014 and January 2015—just weeks



This photograph from Governor Tomblin's Office shows one of the 27 derailed cars burning. The Federal Railroad Administration issued a report Oct. 9 that said the derailment was caused by a broken rail that was missed during inspections.

before the Fayette County derailment—an inspector with Sperry Rail Service received an indication that there was a possible defect with the rail but did not get out of the vehicle to investigate.

The FRA fined CSX and Sperry Rail Service \$25,000 each for failing to verify a potential rail defect.

A total of 27 cars derailed on Feb. 16. Several of the derailed cars, which were carrying Bakken crude from North Dakota to Virginia, caught fire. One house was destroyed and the area around the derailment was evacuated

for several days.

The FRA report said the train was traveling at 33 miles per hour at the time of the accident, well under the 50 mph limit.

The report also said the train released 378,000 gallons of crude oil during the incident, though “much of it was lost to atmospheric burn, pool fires and ground absorption.”

“Broken rail is one of the leading causes of accidents,” acting FRA Administrator Sarah Feinberg said in a press release. “Railroads moving crude and other hazardous materials through and alongside communities bear significant and special responsibility. All railroads, not just CSX, must be more diligent when inspecting for internal rail flaws or when contracting out inspection work. This is just our latest effort to increase the safe transportation of crude and other energy products.”

The DEP's Homeland Security and Emergency Response responded to the

scene of the derailment, and the Division of Water and Waste Management (DWWM) assisted in collecting water quality samples in the Kanawha River and Armstrong Creek. DEP also assisted in deploying absorbent booms into the water to prevent any spilled Bakken crude from moving downstream.

The Environmental Enforcement (EE) section of DWWM reviewed and approved initial response and remediation action plans in an effort to minimize additional environmental harm due to the derailment. After the initial emergency response, EE continued to work with the federal EPA to develop, implement, and monitor remediation actions to minimize long-term environmental issues. This work will continue until DEP and EPA are satisfied that this site does not pose a future environmental risk.

The DEP's Division of Air Quality met with CSX about where air quality monitoring was being conducted, what instruments were being used and how they were calibrated, and if any results were of concern.

Clean Energy Cleaning



Greg Adolfsen, the DEP's sustainability officer, cleans each of the 108 solar panels on the roof of the Kanawha City headquarters every few months. The power generated by these panels has resulted in more than \$11,000 in energy savings since the panels were installed in September 2012.

WANTED!

Beginning Nov. 3, DEP's bearded experts are providing tips for green shaving routines to the public via DEP's Twitter account.

Do you have a beard and a green shaving tip?
[Email Brianna Hickman!](mailto: Brianna.Hickman@dep.gov)

You can follow along [@DEP_WV](https://twitter.com/DEP_WV) and [#BeardsOfDEP](https://twitter.com/BeardsOfDEP).

Gov. Tomblin Cuts State Budget For Rest of FY2016; How Is DEP Affected?

Agencies advised to eliminate non-essential travel, make other changes to achieve four percent reduction

By Jake Glance

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin announced earlier this month that West Virginia's budget would be reduced by four percent for the remainder of fiscal year 2016.

"This is a difficult decision that results from several factors beyond our control," Gov. Tomblin said in a press release. "We are taking this action based on trends we see in the first three months of the fiscal year that we expect to continue throughout this budget cycle. While the cuts we're enacting today will not be easy, we must maintain a balanced budget and this will help us do that."

Along with the across-the-board four percent cut, aid to public schools will also be reduced by one percent. Agencies have been advised to eliminate non-essential travel and to be even more careful than usual in evaluating hiring decisions — meaning some vacant positions could go unfilled for the time being.

The projected deficit for Fiscal Year 2016 is more than \$250 million. Tomblin said an appropriation from the state's Rainy Day Fund could be used to help close the budget gap.

Statement from DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman

By now I'm sure most of you have heard Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's announcement that four percent will be cut from the budgets of most state agencies in fiscal year 2016 because of a budget shortfall that is mainly due to unexpected drops in severance tax collections. Even though this is the third year in a row there has been some kind of state budget reduction, you're still likely wondering how this newest cut will affect the DEP.

Statewide, the budget reduction is expected to result in a savings of about \$100 million. Our agency will be responsible for approximately \$270,000 of that, to be achieved with a four percent cut to our General Revenue appropriation for the timeframe ending June 30, 2016.

Despite the fact that the current state budget reduction doesn't affect DEP as severely as it will some of our sister agencies, we will be taking

a hard look at our spending and will possibly have to offset the loss to our General Revenue budget with money from other funds to minimize impact.

I will be meeting with division directors and office chiefs in the coming days to discuss ways to trim costs. We will likely have to leave some vacant positions empty for the time being and several planned projects may be put on hold. Also, we will be looking to reduce nonessential travel. If you or your unit is affected by these decisions, in the form of a conference trip being canceled for example, your supervisor will be reaching out to discuss that with you.

As we strive to reduce expenses in the here and now, we also have to keep the future in mind by looking for ways to improve efficiencies long term. There may be additional cuts in our future if the economic

trends that led to this budget reduction — particularly those in the energy sector — continue. As I said when I addressed this topic at the annual picnic and awards presentations, the largest contributing factor to our agency being able to weather these types of situations is your ongoing prudent financial management.

Beyond all of that, it's important to remember that we at the DEP are servants of the people of West Virginia. We owe it to those citizens to be mindful of our spending at all times — not just when there are mandated budget reductions.

Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation in this endeavor to operate more efficiently and reduce expenses. And as always, thank you for all that you do each and every day to help us fulfill our mission of promoting a healthy environment.



Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Randy Huffman
Cabinet Secretary

Kelley Gillenwater
Communications Director

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TIRES

con't from Page 1

The goal of this most recent cleanup? To force kayakers to come up with a different name for the "Valley of 1,000 Tires."

"We probably have taken at least 500 out of here in less than a day," Greg Rote, director of the DEP's Rehabilitation Action Program (REAP), said as tires were being hauled up the river bank to be properly disposed of.

"We float down, stop and pick up tires, bring them here to the offload point, and then go back up the river. There are always more tires to pick up."

During the three-day sweep, an estimated 1,100 tires were recovered from less than two miles of stream — proving that the nickname given to this stretch of river was tragically accurate.

Greg says this stretch of river is unique because it is suspected that people throw tires off the Rt. 119 bridge and into the water, and two

streams converge near this spot.

The result is dozens of tires ending up in shallow parts of the river. In just one 50-yard stretch, about 100 tires were removed.

"It keeps getting better and better. Each year they get less tires."

- Greg Rote

The effort on the Big Coal was organized by the Coal River Group, with cooperation from REAP, the Office of the Environmental Advocate, and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps participants.

"It's rewarding for us and I think it's really good to get volunteers out doing like we're doing today and we enjoy really working with volunteers," Greg said.

"We've got a very small group that does what we do and we can't do this without volunteers. It's just almost impossible. You see how many warm bodies it takes just to get them out of the river."

Some of the tires are sitting easily visible in less than a foot of water.

Others are buried in the mud and rocks, barely visible. It often takes two people to lift a tire out of the water because many are packed full of river debris.

Some tires are small, others look as though they came off monster trucks. And many look like their tread is barely worn, even though they've been submerged for an unknown period of time.

But Greg says progress is being made everywhere there are cleanup efforts.

"It keeps getting better and better and better where we've done cleanups before, especially with volunteers like on the Elk River. Each year they get less tires. Volunteers come back and say the Elk River is way cleaner and that's the people that are floating these rivers."

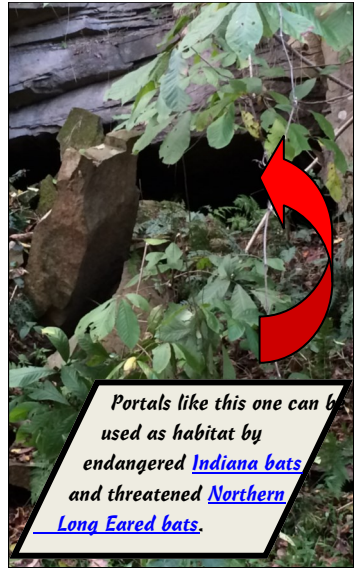
To see more on the Big Coal tire collection event, be sure to watch the next edition of "[Environment Matters](#)" on the DEP's YouTube channel.

... Just Don't Call Him **BAT MAN**

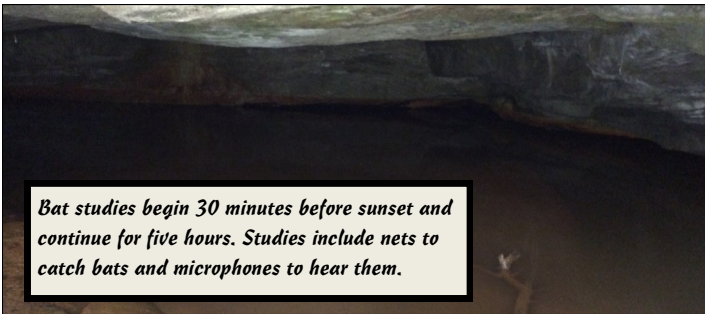
by Jake Glance



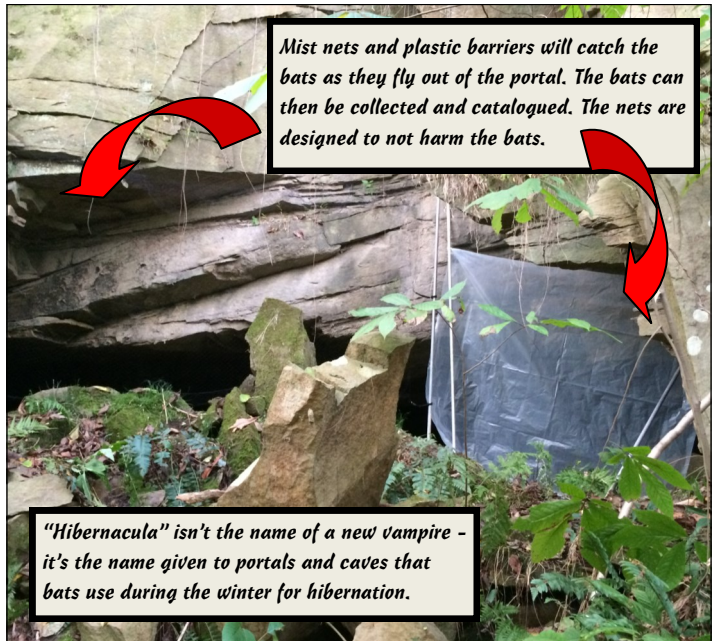
Neil Lafleur of All Star Ecology in Fairmont is conducting a bat study on an abandoned mine portal near Shrewsbury.



Portals like this one can be used as habitat by endangered Indiana bats and threatened Northern Long Eared bats.



Bat studies begin 30 minutes before sunset and continue for five hours. Studies include nets to catch bats and microphones to hear them.



Mist nets and plastic barriers will catch the bats as they fly out of the portal. The bats can then be collected and catalogued. The nets are designed to not harm the bats.



... Neil had to have at least one piece of Batman gear.

"Hibernacula" isn't the name of a new vampire - it's the name given to portals and caves that bats use during the winter for hibernation.



Neil said he's been bitten by bats before, but their jaws are so weak it doesn't hurt. He also said a tiny percentage of bats carry rabies.



"Harp nets" are made of fishing line strung in staggered lines to catch bats. These traps can be set higher from the ground. The bats fly into the line and then fall into the collection bag at the bottom of the trap ...

... but no bats were captured!



Sensitive microphones listen for bats. The recording is then run through a computer program that filters out other sounds and determines which type of bat is present in the portal.

If bats are found in a portal, a bat gate must be installed to let them fly in and out freely. If no bats are found, the portal can be sealed.

Youth Environmental Conference Promotes Ideas, Fosters Creativity

by Jake Glance; Photos by Nedia Cyran

The 2015 Youth Environmental Conference was held October 9-11 at Pipestem Resort State Park in Summers County.

The YEC brings together students ages 13 to 18 from across West Virginia to discuss environmental concerns, exchange ideas, and to report on their hometown environmental projects.

Conference attendees toured Sandstone Falls, the National Park Service Sandstone Visitors Center, and the Hinton Railroad Museum.

The attendees also created art projects from recyclable materials

using the theme “Protecting, Promoting, and Sustaining West Virginia’s Natural Resources.” Winners were named in several categories.

Attendees also heard from DEP, National Park Service and Concord University staff about careers in the environmental and parks and recreation fields. A course on tree identification and what to do in the case of a snake bite were also offered to attendees.

Sixty-seven students from 12 counties attended this year’s Youth Environmental Conference.



The award for the design that most closely related to the conference theme went to the Duval Ecology Club: Brayden Lambert, Nick Miller, Autumn Wood and Jasmyn Hager.



The award for “Best Use of Recyclables” went to Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School: Breanna Morgan and Johnna Smith.



The award for “Most Creative” went to the Environmental Buddies’ Elizabeth Blankenship.



The award for the “Prettiest Design” went to Winfield Scott 4-H’s Brooke Welch.



The award for “Greatest Variation of Recyclables Used” went to Miranda Payne and Haley Pierson of the Busy 4’s 4-H Club.



The award for “Best Concept Art” went to the Highland School Hawks: Keilee Smith and Alektra Bumbul.

DEP “Adopts” Roads Near Offices

by Jake Glance

Albert Einstein once said “Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others, it is the only means.”

It’s hard to argue with his logic.



Lisa Facemyer and Susan Wheeler pick up litter near the headquarters building in Kanawha City on Oct. 15.

And that’s why DEP is working hard to keep the area around its offices free of litter through its own Adopt-A-Highway projects .

About a dozen DEP volunteers from Charleston and nine from Oak Hill were out on a crisp autumn day last week picking up road-side trash.

“We have to be out here practicing what we preach,” said Lisa Facemyer, who works in Charleston with the DEP’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP).

With so many fast food restaurants on the two-mile section of MacCorkle Avenue cleaned up by the

Charleston crew, it’s no surprise that fast food cups were among the most common items of trash recovered.

“We’ve actually had people throw trash out their window while we were picking up and they say ‘Here’s some job security,’” Lisa said.

The Oak Hill group spent about two hours picking up trash on three miles of Lochgelly and Summerlee roads. Kim Maxwell of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) says that among the items found in that cleanup were a plastic mermaid and a smart phone — the latter of which was taken to a local AT&T store so it could be returned to its owner.

The two cleanups netted close to 40 bags of trash total.

Information about the Adopt-A-Highway program, including how you can take part, is available [here](#).



Pictured (L-R) from Oak Hill: Mike Mertz, James McGee, Matt Cox (back row, in sunglasses) Lynn Calhoun (front, in blue shirt), Rick Pino, Tracy Winders, Kim Maxwell, Ashley Thomas

What Causes Leaves to Change Color?



Driving through West Virginia in October, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the beauty of the fall foliage. But not many people think about the chemistry of why the leaves turn from green to red, orange, and all shades in between.

Most people learned in science class that leaves are green because of chlorophyll. Plants require warmth and sunlight to produce this chemical, and in the autumn the plants have less of both. The chlorophyll is slowly broken down, meaning the leaves lose their green color.

Carotenoids and flavonoids are responsible for the yellow and orange leaves. As the chlorophyll is broken down, these chemicals are more noticeable. Lutein, a subclass of carote-

noids, is what gives egg yolks their yellow color.

B-carotene, a type of carotenoid, absorbs green and blue light, reflecting red and yellow light. B-carotene is also what makes carrots orange.

Carotenoids break down in leaves like chlorophyll, but at a much slower rate.

Anthocyanin synthesis in leaves begins when weather cools. It’s thought this chemical helps protect the leaves from excess light, meaning it takes longer for them to fall from the tree’s limbs.

You can see fall foliage maps that show the best time to see the leaves [here on the West Virginia State Parks website](#). You can also see a [guide to identifying the leaves you may find](#).



On Sept. 25, the DEP welcomed students and professors from James Madison University. The students, who are all environment minors at the Harrisonburg, Virginia, school, were learning about the January 2014 Freedom Industries spill of MCHM into the Elk River. After a welcome from Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman, the students learned about the spill and its aftermath from Rusty Joins, Dave Long, Terry Polen, Tom Aluise, Joe Hickman, Brad Wright, Robert Keatley, Kelley Gillenwater and Jake Glance.

DEP School Visits Help Students Learn About Coal, Environment

by Jake Glance

Members of the DEP’s Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) office in Logan recently visited fifth graders at Madison Elementary School to teach the students about coal mining and reclamation efforts.

“We want students to know that reclamation isn’t just about putting things back,” said Benny Campbell, assistant DMR director at the Logan office.

“It is about recreating habitat and land uses that are beneficial for future generations once mining has been completed.”

The presentation at Madison Elementary also stressed the relationship between the coal industry and agencies like the DEP.

Many of the students at Madi-

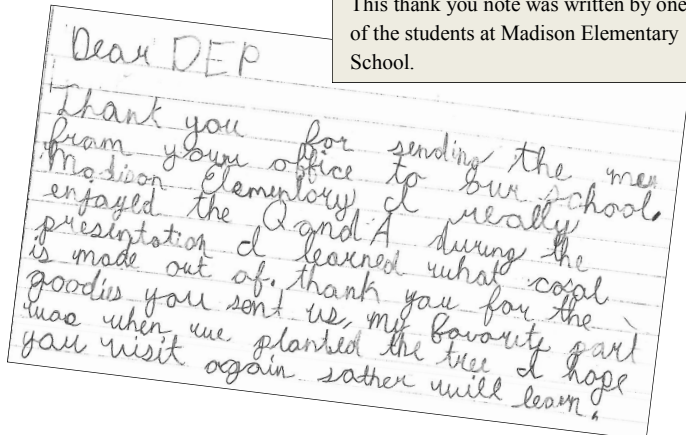
son Elementary have parents or siblings who work in the mining industry or a related industry.

Students were also presented with an evergreen tree planted in honor of DEP Environmental Inspector John Damron, who passed away in 2012.

“John expressed that working as an inspector was one of the most awesome jobs anyone could have because he was part of reclaiming land for future generations,” Benny said.

Taking part in the presentation were Environmental Resource Analyst Tom Satterfield, Engineer David Wagner, ERS/NPDES Permit Writer Marvin Journell and ERS Tim Justice.

This thank you note was written by one of the students at Madison Elementary School.



Congratulations!

State service awards presented by

Secretary Huffman at

2015 DEP Employee Picnic

Photos by Mike Huff



Five Years of Service: Secretary Huffman, Deanna Simms, Danielle Taylor, Susan Rose, Jeremiah “Joe” McCoy, Rosemary Elmore, Robert Price, Megan Browning, John Kearney



Ten Years of Service: Kenna DeRaimo, Secretary Huffman, Sheri Richardson.



Fifteen Years of Service: William Tracy Rothwell, Richard Boehm, Ken Stevens, Patrick Burch, Carol Leffew, Debbie Pickens, Linda Keller, Secretary Huffman, Mike Whitman



Twenty Years of Service: Secretary Huffman, Carrie McCumbers, Yvonne Anderson, Renee Chapman, Donna Ammons, David McCoy, Robert Keatley (back row), Doug Brown, John Legg, Kathy Emery



Twenty-Five Years of Service: Secretary Huffman, Nick Schaer, Pat Campbell, Gene Coccari, Dee Smith



Thirty Years of Service: Secretary Huffman, Fran Ryan, Craig Hatcher, Cheryl Lewis.

For a complete list of service awards, see page 9.



Thirty-Five Years of Service: Sudhir Patel, Secretary Huffman, Lewis Halstead.

RIGHT: 2015 DEP Employee of the Year Casey Korbini with Secretary Huffman.



Rain Doesn't Dampen Spirits At Annual DEP Picnic

Despite Last-Minute Move to Charleston, Picnic is a Success

by Jake Glance

The DEP annual picnic was a success in 2015, despite bad weather and a last-minute decision to move the celebration from Oakes Field in South Charleston to the agency's Kanawha City headquarters.

More than 400 DEP employees and family members attended the event, which included lunch, carnival games, the recognition of long-time state service, and the announcement of the DEP Employee of the Year.



Congratulations to State Service Award Recipients

by Jake Glance

The following employees have been recognized for their years of service to the state of West Virginia.

Five years of service: Laura Adkins, OOG; Mark Alt, DMR; Megan Browning, DWWM; Kenneth Bryant, DMR; James Connolly, AML; Niki Davis, DWWM; Pamela Drooger, DMR; Mary Elliott, DMR; Rosemary Elmore, DMR; Jason Ely, DWWM-EE; Eric Gladwell, DWWM; Nathaniel Gunn, IT; Tracy Jeffries, DLR; John Kearney, OOG; Christopher Kyle, IT; Michael Martin, AML; Tonya Mather, DWWM-EE; Jeremiah McCoy, DMR; Patty Miller, OOG; Dewayne Nelson, DMR-OEB; Stephen Nestor, DLR; Philip Pack, DWWM; Heather Rice, DMR; Dwight Robinson, DMR; Susan Rose, DWWM; Deanna Simms, PIO; Devin Smith, DLR; Danielle Taylor, DAQ; Stephen Thomas, DMR; Roger White, AML; Rebecca Wiseman, HSER.

Ten years of service: Robert Betterton, DAQ; David Cole, DWWM; Kenna DeRaimo, Executive; David Fellw, DAQ; Jonathan Frame, OLS; Alana Hartman, DWWM; Justin Haymond, AML; Jonathan Holbert, AML; Sandra Horton, DMR; Fred Legg, AML; April O'Dell, Administration; Mark Parsons, DMR; Sheri Richardson, Administration; Walter Simmons, OOG; Barry Stollings, OOG; Jacqualin

Thornton, OOG; Isaac Walters, DMR; Don Wang, DWWM;

Fifteen years of service: Thomas Adkins, DMR; Charles Arthur, AML; Richard Boehm, DAQ; Mark Bolling, DWWM-EE; Patrick Burch, DWWM; Nat Chertkovsky-Veselova, DAQ; Douglas Kee, DWWM-EE; Linda Keller, DWWM; Joseph Kreger, DAQ; Carol Leffew, Administration; Judy Lupson, DWWM; Nathan Meadows, HSER; Debbie Pickens, Administration; Ruth Porter, DWWM-EE; Pasupathy Ramanan, DLR; Anita Kay Rogers, Administration; William Rothwell, DAQ; Jerry Scarles, DLR; Sharon SeEVERS, DAQ; Ken Stevens, IT; Kenneth Stewart, DMR; Donna Stump, DMR; Matthew Sweeney, DWWM; Jeanne Wagner, DAQ; Danny Wandling, DWWM; Michael Whitman, DWWM; Jerry Williams, DAQ; Laurence Williams, DLR.

Twenty years of service: Donna Ammons, DWWM-EE; Carol Anderson, DMR; Kenneth Brown, IT; Juddie Burgess, DMR; Donald Burns Jr., DLR; Neil Chakrabarty, IT; Renee Chapman, DMR; Stephen Drake, DAQ; Katheryn Emery, DWWM; Pamela Ford, AML; Rebecca Johnson, DAQ; Robert Keatley, DAQ; John Legg, DAQ; Terri Lucas, DMR; Robin Mallett, Administration; David McCoy, DLR; Carrie McCumbers,

DAQ; Michael Ong, DWWM; David Simmons, DWWM-EE; Marjorie Skeens, DWWM; Katherine Thacker, DMR.

Twenty-five years of service: Paul Benedum, DLR; Patrick Campbell, DWWM; Mark Cline, Administration; Gene Coccari, DAQ; Keith Evans, DMR; George Ford, DMR; William Hauer, DMR; Russ Hunter, DMR; Charles Joseph, DWWM-EE; Joseph Lazell, OLS; William Little, DMR; John Loughry, DLR; Joel Maddy, DAQ; John Perkins, DWWM; John Poindexter, DWWM; Nick Schaefer, DMR; Delia Ann "Dee" Smith, DAQ.

Thirty years of service: Daniel Bays, DMR; James Ebert, DAQ; Vera Jean Funk, DMR; Craig Hatcher, Administration; James Laine, DWWM; Cheryl Lewis, AML; Johnny Morgan, DWWM; Fran Ryan, DMR; Gene Smith, OOG.

Thirty-five years of service: Suzanna Adkins, DWWM; Joseph Hager, DMR; Lewis Halstead, DMR; Mavis Layton, DWWM; Sudhir Patel, DWWM; David Porter, DAQ; Autumn Lynn Pugh, Administration; Terrie Lea Sangid, DWWM; Charles Sturey, DMR.

Forty years of service: Mark Foley, DMR; Michael Park, DLR.

NASLR

con't from page 1

West Virginia's image as a leading energy producing state and one that faces reclaiming challenges is reflected by the fact that the state has hosted the national NASLR conference six times since 1972. That's more than any other state.

West Virginia has hosted the national conference three times since 2000, including in 2011 and 2012 at

Glade Springs in Raleigh County—in the heart of the southern coal fields.

"At a conference, you get some things out of a presentation, but outside of the presentations you end up talking to people, over lunch or during a break, and you end up making contacts from all over the country that go throughout the year," said Derek.

"You can find out what other states are going through and learn how they handled a certain situation similar to what you're up against."

There are some challenges that

West Virginia has to deal with that other states don't. This is, after all, the Mountain State.

"Guidelines for reclamation techniques for steep slopes, for example. That's not something you find in many other states. Another unique area is mountaintop removal coal mining."

Derek said some states don't even have a designated agency that deals with mining and reclamation, leaving that duty to federal inspectors.

For more NASLR information, click [here](#) to go to the group's website.

KRONOS

con't from Page 1

Even though the switch is being made to KRONOS, Melinda is asking everyone to continue filling out their time sheets in ERIS for the time being. Time sheets for the first half of November must be submitted in ERIS no later than Nov. 13. This will help ensure that correct leave balances are uploaded to KRONOS later in the month.

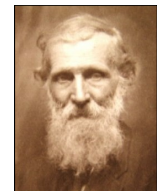
Melinda pointed out that there are several training guides and videos available. To view the videos, log on to the [West Virginia State Auditor's website](#) and click on "myApps." After logging in, click on "Enterprise Readiness" and then "Training." There are also materials available on our intranet site in the wvOASIS folder.

Also as part of the KRONOS implementation, state employees will receive paychecks every two weeks instead of twice per month.

"This is a statewide system and DEP has little control over things like the pay schedule and the go-live date," Melinda said. "We are dedicated to making sure that all of our data is correct in the system and that people will get paid."

Questions can be emailed to DEPHumanResources@wv.gov.

"Quotable"



"Take a course of good water and air, and in the eternal youth of Nature you may renew your own. Go quietly, alone; no harm will befall you."

- John Muir (1838-1914)

Upcoming Retirements

Carolyn Lambdin, Office of Special Reclamation
David Chaney, Division of Water and Waste Management
David Cowan, Office of Oil and Gas
Fran Ryan, Division of Mining and Reclamation

New Hires

Tareska Casto, Office of Oil and Gas

