



The DEP's Nick Schaer stands in front of marker at Spring Hill Cemetery in Charleston. The inscription reads: "In memory of those buried here who were moved to this location during 1956 from a cemetery at Lancaster Ave. and 57th St. Charleston, WV., by Libby Owens ..."

## History's mystery at the WVDEP

*Cemetery once sat on site of Kanawha City office building*

By Nick Schaer

During this spring's Earth Day and "Bring Your Child to Work Day" events, I helped run a GPS scavenger hunt for over two dozen children in the parking area of the Department of Environmental Protection's headquarters in Kanawha City.

In putting together a map to pass out to scavenger hunt participants, I went through various modern and historic maps of the office area that are scanned and placed on the WVDEP "M" Drive using ArcGIS. In going through those maps I learned a



The outline of the Gay Cemetery is shown in purple on this recent air photo of DEP headquarters. The overlay is a 1929-30 Army Corps map.

lot about the history of the land our office is built on and discovered a cool mystery to boot.

Prior to 1980, this area was dominated by the huge Libby Owens glass plant. The property that this office sits on was then owned by Libby Owens Glass.

On a 1931 map, you can see the many small company houses that were found on this lot during that time period. The Libby Owens plant was built around 1920 and was demolished in 1980.

Prior to 1920, this area was used extensively for farming and was also associated with a coal mine owned by Kanawha City Coal Company.

Records on the Kanawha Coal deep mine are rare and sometimes contradictory. It appears that mining occurred here from around 1880 to 1925.

See MYSTERY, Page 3

## DEP staffers honored by peers

By Colleen O'Neill

Having your work praised by those who have the same occupation is always nice. Four members of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's computer technology office were honored for their excellent work.

Each received West Virginia Excellence in Information Technology awards during October's state IT Summit at the Charleston Civic Center.

"The special thing about winning one of these awards is that it is statewide and voted on by our peers," said Jerry Forren, chief of the DEP's Information Technology Office.

Forren was honored for "Demonstrated Leadership for Technology-driven Business Transformation." It recognized his ability to transition information technology developments into helpful business applications.

"That makes it a little more special," Forren said. "It shows that you have earned the respect of the other agencies and your peers."

Forren's award category was new, so he is the first executive award winner. He was nominated for the award by DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman.

"I was surprised because the competi-

See PEERS, Page 10

# Youth conference hits 35 years

By Colleen O'Neill

Mid-October was when the Youth Environmental Conference kicked off its 35th year.

The event took place at Cacapon Resort State Park in the Eastern Panhandle. Sixty young adults attended.

"This year's conference attendance was about the same as last year," said Diana Haid, coordinator of the DEP's Youth Environmental Program.

There are 835 environmentally conscious youth groups throughout West Virginia, with 74,580 members.

"There are a lot of things going on this time of year, football games, Bridge Day, etc., that sometimes keep youth groups from attending," Haid said.

The Eastern Panhandle presented many exciting things to do relating to the environment.

The group visited the USDA National Science Center in Leetown.

"The participants learned a lot about how the Science Center conducts testing on trout in order to increase their population for human consumption," Haid said. "We saw their laboratories and had to wear booties over our shoes that had to be disinfected by walking on spongy mats that contained antibacterial solutions. In the labs, we saw large vats that contained trout in various sizes that are used in scientific testing."

The group was divided in half, and one group hiked a trail at Yankauer Nature Preserve, while the other went caving in karst caves. After about two hours, they switched, giving every person the opportunity to do both.

"The group walked the 'Kingfisher Trail' that wound around to the Potomac River and back to the entrance," Haid explained. "The preserve used to be a cow pasture and was donated to the Potomac Valley Audubon Society."

The trail guides pointed



Youth Environmental Conference participants prepare to enter Whiting's Neck karst cave.



Recycling crafts at Cacapon State Park in the Eastern Panhandle were included on the YEC agenda.



A YEC group checks out trout being used for scientific testing at the USDA Science Center in Leetown.

"I have noticed that the Youth Environmental Conference participants are more intelligent every year and more aware of the environment ..."

**Diana Haid**

DEP Youth Environmental Program coordinator

out different species of plants and trees.

"Caving was a first for the conference," Haid said. "All conference participants had the opportunity, if they wanted, to go into the cave."

The group was led by Bob Bennett and several other experienced cavers.

When entering the cave, after donning their hardhats with headlamps, the group had to go down a ladder, over a little ways,

then up another ladder.

From there, the cavers had to crawl on their bellies for about 75 feet and then the cave opened up into a big room.

"The ones who didn't go into the cave were able to rappel down into a sink hole," Haid said. "That kind of gave the impression you were in the cave."

The conference was a success, said Haid, who has almost 30 years of experience under her belt.

"I have noticed that the Youth Environmental Conference participants are more intelligent every year and more aware of the environment, with strong desires to help protect and preserve it, as well as our natural resources," Haid said.

Having been involved with the conference for many years, her favorite activity isn't an activity at all.

"I enjoy the challenge of putting something together, based on what the participants want to see and experience. Seeing them first-hand having fun learning and experiencing something new and enjoying themselves is awesome. Receiving their feedback from the activities helps me know what to do to keep it fresh and interesting for them."

**MYSTERY**

Continued from Page 1

Well, anyway, back to my mystery.

When I looked at the 1929-30 Kanawha River Survey conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, I found something very odd just east of the glass plant. Adjacent to the old company houses was a marked graveyard.

It was in areas clearly within what are today the WVDEP parking lot and building.

During some free time, I went through West Virginia Culture and History records and found absolutely nothing about this graveyard.

No other historic map had any record of it either and historians at West Virginia State University and the state archeologist couldn't find information.

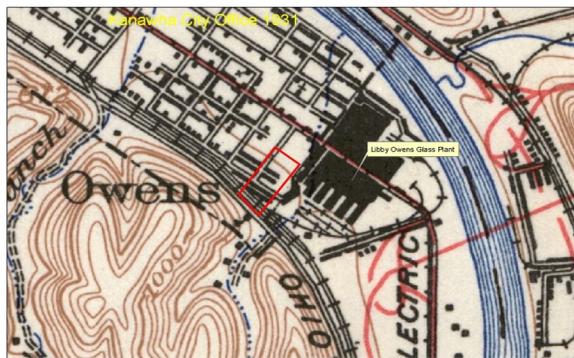
I did, however, get the name of a local history buff, Russ Young.

Young told me he had not personally seen the cemetery, but had heard of it.

He also knew it had been officially moved to Spring Hill Cemetery on Charleston's east side and told me he could show me the marker.

In the meantime, I found and scanned air photos for this area for 1957 and 1938.

The 1938 photo showed what could be an ill-defined cemetery



**This 1931 maps shows the scope of the property occupied by the Libby Owens plant. The rectangular area outlined in red is the current location of DEP's headquarters.**

and the 1957 photo showed this area as being freshly bulldozed by Libby Owens.

Now, I had a time frame to work with, but Young had no information on any individuals who were buried at this graveyard or its general nature.

Finally, I found some spare time to visit Spring Hill Cemetery with Young. I took my GPS camera so I could locate any features I found on future maps.

In talking with the caretakers at Spring Hill, we found out that records for the part of Spring Hill where the marker was located had been destroyed in a fire many years ago.

The caretakers were able to show us six graves they thought could have been part of the move when Libby Owens transferred the graveyard.

They included the names "Thomas,"

"Hilton," "McMichem," "Hasting," "Todd" and "Harris."

I looked up each name on a national census database and searched against various national family-tree databases. Every last one of the names was a dead end.

So, I now knew there was a cemetery but I had no firm leads on the nature or occupants of our lost graveyard.

About two weeks later, Young gave me a call and said he had talked to some local old timers who actually remembered this cemetery.

They told him there used to be a fenced and gated part of the cemetery and that it was labeled as the Gay family cemetery.

He recalled that his barber, when he was growing up, was named Art Gay and that he was older when Young was a child.

After that bit of information, everything began to fall into place.

I found an Art Gay who was born in 1904 in local census records. Art was a son of Charles Augustus Gay also of Kanawha City.

I was quickly able to trace this family back to a George Gay who settled in the Kanawha City area around 1840.

George owned a large tract of land just east of where the Libby Owens plant was to be built.

And, yes, George Gay was the great-great-great-grandfather to WVDEP employee David Gay.

David's grandfather, it turns out, was a brother to Art.

David knew that his father's family used to live in this area but he knew nothing of where they were buried.

Historic records showed that, through the years, the Gay family mostly farmed and sometimes worked at the local coal mine.

I found specific reference to many family members being buried at this cemetery up to around 1930.

By the time the glass plant was torn down almost everyone had moved away or passed on. Its existence had almost been completely forgotten.

But thanks to some persistent historical detective work, this mystery was not completely lost in time.

## Watershed group says 'thanks' for stream restoration

By Tom Aluise

Members of the Save the Tygart Watershed Association showed up in force during an October ceremony near Grafton to thank the state for its support of a doser project on Three Fork Creek in Preston and Taylor counties.

The Department of Environmental Protection's Abandoned Mine Lands program is funding the \$740,000 project that includes four doser sites on Three Fork and its tributaries. The dosers will dump acid-neutralizing alkaline materials into Three



**Leroy Stanley, president of the Save the Tygart Watershed Association, speaks with the media during a ceremony on Three Fork Creek.**

Fork's waters, which have been impaired for decades by acid

mine drainage from pre-law mining operations.

Three Fork Creek empties into the Tygart Valley River at Grafton.

"These four dosers will change Three Fork Creek," said Leroy Stanley, president of the 65-member Tygart Watershed Association. "It's been dead for 50 years because of acid mine drainage."

Stanley said the treatment will bring life back to a creek that was once a flourishing trout stream.

"We're hoping to recover 21

See **STREAM**, Page 4

# What's next ? One marathon down, another challenge to go

**Editor's note:** Mike Egnor, an engineer in the DEP's Division of Air Quality, ran his first marathon this fall in Columbus, Ohio. Following is an account of his experience.

**By Mike Egnor**

On Oct. 17, I lined up with 15,000 people in downtown Columbus in clear 49-degree weather for a 7:30 a.m. start to the Columbus Marathon.

The first mile was clustered with runners, which was good for me. It held me to a good warm-up first mile, which I ran in 9 minutes, 50 seconds.

After that, I was holding myself back as I was on pure adrenaline until close to 10 miles from all the excitement.

I finished the first half of the 26.2-mile marathon in 2:00:01.

One of the harder parts of the race was mile 13, when I saw two arrows on the course, one pointing left for the half-marathon finish, and one going straight for the full marathoners.

It was tough to keep going straight. Since there were 10,000 running the half-marathon and 5,000 running the



**DAQ's Mike Egnor completed the Columbus Marathon in 4 hours, 17 minutes and 36 seconds.**

full, the pack really thinned down from then on.

Around mile 18, the course ran probably three-quarters of the way around the outside of the Ohio State football stadium (The Horseshoe). Then it started going uphill, until mile 21.

I had read that a marathon is 20 miles of hope followed by six

miles of truth. So, when mile 20 came, I decided to see what I was made of.

Unfortunately, as it turned out, it turned into a physical impairment as much as a mental gut check.

Around mile 22 or 23, I got horrible cramps in my quads in both legs from severe dehydration to the point I couldn't walk.

But after training for 22 weeks, I would have crawled the last four miles if I had to. So, it wasn't a matter of if, but a matter of when I would finish.

After I don't know how long, I was able to walk again, and then run again. From that point on, I'd cramp up, stop, walk, and jog. This continued for the rest of the race.

After mile 26, I made the turn to where I could actually see the finish line. How did I feel at that point? People talk about the anticipation of the joy of crossing the finish line, accomplishing something bigger than themselves, becoming not just a runner but a marathoner.

**See CHALLENGE, Page 8**



**John King (right), from the DEP's Office of Environmental Advocate, speaks with members of the Save the Tygart Watershed Association.**

## **STREAM**

Continued from Page 3

miles of trout stream," Stanley said.

During the ceremony at one of the doser sites, Stanley praised the efforts of the state and Gov. Joe Manchin in making the Three Fork project a reality. He said it's been in the works for close to five years.

"He (Gov. Manchin) got on board with this and helped make it happen," Stanley said. "That's why we're here today — to say 'Thanks' to Gov. Manchin."

John King, from the DEP's Office of Environmental Advocate, and Jennifer Pauer, the DEP's Watershed Management basin coordinator, attended the ceremony.

AML Chief Eric Coberly, whose staff designed and provided construction oversight of the Three Fork project, said he hopes the dosers will be operational by spring 2011. The state AML program will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dosers, as well as for some of the post-treatment water quality monitoring on the stream.

indepth

**Joe Manchin III**

Governor

**Randy Huffman**

Cabinet Secretary

**Kathy Cosco**

Communications

Director

**Tom Aluise**

Editor

Public Information Office

601 57th St. S.E.

Charleston, WV 25304

**Email:** [Kathy.Cosco@wv.gov](mailto:Kathy.Cosco@wv.gov);

or

[Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov](mailto:Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov)

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



## Employees of the Month

**April O'Dell**, Administration/Human Resources, and **Ralph Triplett**, Oil and Gas, were honored as the August and September Employees of the Month respectively during a ceremony at DEP headquarters.

Both O'Dell (top photo) and Triplett (above) are pictured with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman.

► O'Dell came on board almost a year ago and has stepped up to take on the role of agency leave coordinator. At the time of her arrival, the DEP was behind on scanning documents. O'Dell has managed to catch up on the scanning and the personnel files are all up to date. In May, she helped implement a new "timekeep" role in the ERIS system.

O'Dell has shown enthusiasm for her new job, learned quickly and became a valuable member of the team in a short period of time. She has a desire to understand the process/procedure and wants to take care of the issue herself without relying on anyone else.

► Triplett, an inspector in the Office of Oil and Gas, is assigned counties in the south-central portion of the state.

Throughout his daily routine, he maintains a high standard with his duty assignments and workloads. He is conscientious in keeping his permitting and reclamation reviews up-to-date. He provides assistance in earnest toward other inspectors and assists with their special investigations.

Triplett also practices flexibility and dependability. He is thorough in all of his work and practices with attention to detail.

Triplett excels in record-keeping quality and workload efficiency.

He maintains high standards and a spirit of teamwork when working with special investigations. He also maintains a disciplined character and demeanor throughout his assignments.

## Human Resources corner



### Direct deposit changes took effect Nov. 1

On Nov. 1, 2010 changes to our direct deposit process went into effect. When changing your direct deposit for travel, you will need to complete the New Travel Direct Deposit form and include your Vendor ID number. A voided check does not have to be attached to this form as long as you include your account and routing number.

<http://www.wvsao.gov/electronicpayments/directdepositforms.aspx>.

To make changes to your payroll direct deposit, you will complete the New Payroll Direct Deposit Form and include your EPICS ID number located on the upper left hand corner of your pay stub.

You can deposit your paycheck to five different accounts. You will be able to write in your account and routing number on the form instead of attaching information from your bank. You do not have to be on the account to have money deposited into an account.

The final Savings Bond payroll deduction will be Nov. 30, 2010 for Series I Bonds and Dec. 31, 2010 for Series EE bonds. Starting Jan. 1, 2011, to purchase a savings bond, you must open an account with Treasury Direct at [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov). After the account has been set up, complete the information in the secondary area on our direct deposit form with the bank name Treasury Direct.

You must include the account number and the amount you want deposited each pay period (for a \$100 a month bond you will pay \$50 per pay). Once the money is in your account, you will purchase the bond through Treasury Direct.

They will no longer mail paper bonds. It will be recorded electronically.

Instructions on how to convert your paper bonds into the electronic system is located on their Web site.

Direct deposit forms are to be submitted to Human Resources/Payroll in Kanawha City. If the form is sent to the Auditor's office, it will not be processed.

The forms are located on the Auditor's Web site and DEP's intranet, under the payroll link. After Nov. 1, the only form accepted will be the new form. The forms on the Auditor's Web site are the official forms to use. If we receive an old form, it will be returned to you along with a new direct deposit form to complete.

If you have any questions about the changes to the direct deposit process, contact David Kersey at ext. 1576 or Judy Smith at ext. 1578.

# DEP retirements

**Brenda Fisher**

DMR  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 41

**Sherry Hale**

Administration  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 36

**Dian Mitchell**

DMR  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 35

**Pat Park**

Administration  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 39

**Linda Simmons**

DWWM  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 22



**Tom Fisher**

DWWM  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 32

**Fisher says:** I reported to Mingo County to work for the DNR as a forest ranger on a cold, snowy day in November 1977. As I look back, the highlight of that part of my career is that I ended up being good friends with two people who pulled a weapon on me for trying to do my job.

One of the two was a fellow employee, who pushed a loaded handgun into my abdomen for not going along with his illegal shenanigans.

How times have changed.

Bob Beanblossom, who now works for Parks, was my mentor and I thank him for helping me through those times.

I was a water inspector all through the 1980s. A fellow named Hayes Johnson, who is now deceased, was my mentor and had a lot to do with how I did my job the rest of my career.

It was a great time to have that position because there was so much to do. I look back at what kind of shape the environment was in in 1980 and where we are now, and I am proud of what the DEP has accomplished during that time.

Mike Dorsey hired me as a manager over field operations for Hazardous Waste in 1990 and I want to thank him for that.

What I am most proud of in the 1990s is that we started working with others and prosecuting some of the true environmental criminals out there, who just were not going to get it otherwise.

I am talking about people who dumped their toxic waste into remote areas of a stream after dark or pushed drums out of the back of a pickup truck. Many of them received jail time and it went a long way in making things better.

The 2000s just kept taking me further and further away from the field work that I love. But as I got further away, the more my appreciation grew for the guys and gals still out there in the various enforcement programs doing what I used to do. They are often overlooked for what they do and they accomplish so much for DEP.

I want to especially thank the troops in the Hazardous Waste Program who stood behind me the last 20-plus years: Chris, Jamie, Kevin, Dale, Joyce and Penny.

Beyond that, thanks to Terrie Sangid for being my best friend at DEP for the last several years. I am going to miss being able to run down to her office and solicit her opinion.

Thanks to Mike Zeto. And give him the support he needs as he works hard everyday to get things done. There are so many others that I would like to acknowledge ...

**On the future:** I am leaving the DEP to live. I have a wife, who had to take medical retirement, a handicapped daughter still at home, four precious grandbabies, two parents in their 80s and 20 acres, all of which need me.

I want to fish a little and go on a road trip when I feel the need. I sincerely can hardly wait. Good Luck to all of you.



**Anna Shahan**

DLR  
**Last day:** Oct. 29, 2010  
**Years of service:** 27

**Shahan says:** I have mixed feelings about retiring. I'll miss the many friends I've made at the DEP, but I look forward to a less structured lifestyle.

I plan to take the rest of the year off, then in January go to real estate school, get my license and try my hand at something I've wanted to do for many years.

My boyfriend and I plan to catch a train in New York City next spring, ride across the country to Seattle, rent a car and drive down Highway 1 along the coast visiting old Spanish Missions as we go. We'll fly back home from San Diego.

I plan to continue my work with the Coal River Group, but other than that, I plan to take life easy one day at a time.

To all my friends and the friendly faces I pass every day: I'll miss you and I wish you well.



This Flowering Quince, photographed in Pocahontas County, is featured on the cover of the 2011 Roadsides in Bloom calendar.

# ‘Just playing around’

## Boone resident lands calendar cover

By Tom Aluise

Glenna Graley prefers taking pictures the old-fashioned way. “I didn’t want to go digital because I really like film,” Graley said. “But my son bought me a digital camera and I use it quite a bit. But I still like my old manual camera. I like having control. It’s like having a standard shift truck. You want to change the gears yourself.”

Graley might be changing gears a little less frequently if she continues to produce quality photos like the one she submitted to the annual Operation Wildflower “Roadsides in Bloom” calendar contest, which is sponsored by the departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation.

Graley’s photo of Flowering Quince blooming alongside a Pocahontas County highway was shot digitally.

And it was good enough to be selected as the 2011 calendar’s cover art.

“I would have been tickled just to have been picked (for one of



Boone County resident Glenna Graley still enjoys shooting pictures with film.

the 12 months),” said Graley, 60, who lives in Boone County.

Graley shot the photo this spring near the Green Bank Library on Route 28.

“We have a hunting camp up there and we spend a lot of time there,” Graley said. “When I took that photo we had taken our grandsons up there for spring break.

“I was driving around trying to find something. We went up there in April and there was still snow left on the ground. But it was pretty over in Green Bank.”

An avid picture taker, Graley has had photos displayed at the Epcot Center at Disney World and in New York City. This will be her first photo in the Roadsides in Bloom Calendar.

“I’ve been taking pictures since I was little,” Graley said. “I still have an old Brownie (camera) my aunt bought me with Top Value Stamps.

“I’m not any kind of professional. I just like to play around with cameras.”

To order a Roadsides in Bloom calendar, call 1-800-322-5530.

# Students boost Wellness program

By Colleen O'Neill

Beginning this fall, the Department of Environmental Protection opened its doors to two University of Charleston pharmacy students.

The DEP's Wellness Program, housed in Human Resources, offers hands-on training that allows these students to exercise their classroom knowledge. This enhances an already first-rate Wellness Program.

"I'm always looking for ways to improve our program," said Teresa Weaver, Wellness coordinator for the agency.

"These young people need a way to hone their presentation and communication skills, while interacting with people. DEP benefits from their knowledge and they get needed experience."

Jordan Rockhold and Courtney Bruens are the first two UC students to join the DEP Wellness Program.

They'll be here until mid-November and then eventually replaced by two more UC pharmacy students.

On Oct. 19, Rockhold and Bruens tackled cancer awareness in a relaxed setting. Weaver scheduled a lunch-and-learn during which the UC students presented information about cancer and how to avoid it. The



University of Charleston pharmacy students Jordan Rockhold (left) and Courtney Bruens are exercising their classroom knowledge and gaining experience through the DEP's Wellness Program.

Wellness Program provided lunch, giving employees a chance to learn and get comfortable.

"This is important information that will aid the employees in making choices that may impact their lives," Weaver said. "As everyone is busy, using the lunch hour and combining lunch with a presentation is a great way to reach employees."

"Lunch-and-learns are very popular with the employees. It allows them to learn needed information, without taking away from their work time."

For the UC students, DEP offers a challenge

because it's not considered a typical site. The pharmacy students usually gain their experience with the public at hospitals, nursing homes and outpatient clinics.

Because of class requirements, the students will only be here on Tuesday afternoons.

"I hope to coordinate an effective program to stimulate the public," Rockhold said, "to maybe start a legacy of continuing health education."

Bruens mirrored Rockhold's sentiment, adding that she wants to "impact someone's life, to help them become healthier."

Weaver said network-

ing helped the agency land the UC students.

"I'm always in contact with the Wellness Council of West Virginia," Weaver said. "My contact asked me if DEP could sponsor two students. I thought it was an interesting idea, so I looked into it. I thought it would enhance our program and offer the employees fresh voices."

"We have decided to sponsor two more students when this rotation is over," Weaver added.

"I'm not sure when the students will be here or who we'll have, but I'm sure they'll be wonderful, just like the two students we have now."

## CHALLENGE

Continued from Page 4

This may be true of other people. But what I will always remember is that at mile 26 I suddenly realized that I literally couldn't feel my legs anymore and I was hoping and hoping that they wouldn't give out the last 100 yards. I kept pinching my legs but there was no feeling.

But after four hours, 17 minutes and 36 seconds, I did cross the line and finish the race.

Someone from the

Ohio National Guard placed a medal around my neck for a job well done. It was the same medal the winner received for running the race in 2:18:08. And it was the same medal the last finisher received after crossing the line in 7:35:56.

For the record (using a Garmin GPS watch with heart rate monitor), I ran 26.47 miles (it's only 26.2 if you run perfectly in a straight line), burned 3,768 calories, took over 50,000 steps, and averaged 9:45 per mile with an average heart

rate of 140 bpm.

My fastest mile was 8:42 during mile six and my slowest was 12:24 on mile 24.

So, the question that remains is why did I do it?

It's not because I'm a great athlete. There are people who work in this building who run faster and farther than I would ever hope to. A year and a half ago I couldn't run a whole lap around a track.

Maybe I was a weight lifter whose shoulders couldn't take the punishment of year-round lifting anymore. Maybe

I was having a mid-life crisis and wouldn't settle for a sports car.

I guess the biggest reason is I wanted to meet that next challenge, to keep pushing myself physically and mentally, to become more than I am.

When my daughters tell me I'm old, I can tell them I ran a marathon.

When I tell them that they can do anything if they put the time and effort into it, it's not just words. I have proven it to them.

The only question for me now is what's next?



DMR's Larry Alt (right) confers with inspector Jerry Quesenberry at a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Panel site visit to Wyoming County. Alt is a 10-year member on the panel.

## Ten years later, panel continues court's mission

By Tom Aluise

Ten years after it was formed as part of the consent decree from the Bragg litigation, the Quality Assurance/Quality Control Panel continues to serve as a useful tool in evaluating and improving quality control in surface coal mining permitting.

The five-person panel held its final meeting of 2010 in October and delivered its findings and recommendations to Tom Clarke, director of the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Mining and Reclamation.

"We report our findings back to the director," said Larry Alt, of the DMR's Logan office. "If we see something is wrong, we're going to tell our director."

Alt has been the DEP's representative on the QA/QC panel since its inception. The panel this year also included two people from Morgan Worldwide (Jack Burchett, Garrie Krueger and John Morgan alternated), representing the environmental component, and two people from industry (Barry Doss, of Doss

"We look at things such as, 'Are they meeting AOC requirements? Are they meeting surface water runoff requirements?'"

**Larry Alt**

Member of Quality Assurance/Quality Control Panel

Engineering and Jeff Almond, from Marshall Miller and Associates).

Bob Fala, a biologist in the DMR, served as the panel's facilitator and DMR engineer Mark Holstein advised the group on permitting issues dealing with approximate original contour (AOC).

Bragg vs. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dealt with the effects of mountaintop mining and valley fills on streams. As part of its consent decree, the QA/QC panel was created to "review surface mining permits and visit mine

See **PANEL**, Page 10

# Cleanups can be walk back in time

Don Martin has worked in state government for 31 years, starting in Forestry with DNR.

He is currently the assistant director for the DEP's Division of



**Martin**

Land Restoration and oversees the agency's cleanup programs under the Voluntary Remediation & Redevelopment Act (brownfields); Leaking Underground Storage Tanks; Superfund; RCRA Corrective Action; and Landfill Closure Assistance Program.

Born in Clarksburg, Martin grew up in western Pennsylvania and was two years behind NFL great Joe Montana at Ringgold High School.

He is married with three children: Jeremy (27), Melissa (24), and Susan (22).

**1. What do you find most interesting about your work?**

I don't know that I can narrow it down to



**With Don Martin**

just one thing, but overall it's the collaboration and problem-solving encountered with many cleanup projects, to get the work completed as efficiently and safely as possible.

Some of the most challenging times have been assisting co-workers in determining the source of contamination that may be affecting someone, such as vapors in homes or businesses or contamination in a water well or stream.

And then convincing the responsible party that "tag" they're "it," and that they need to implement measures to correct the problem.

**2. What part of your job occupies most of your time?**

See **TIME**, Page 11

## New Additions Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Matthew Collier, DWWM
- ▶ Jonathan Knight, AML
- ▶ William Little, DMR
- ▶ Holly Morris, DLR
- ▶ Katherine Morse, DMR
- ▶ Phillip Williamson, DMR
- ▶ Randolph Wyatt, DMR

**PEERS**

Continued from Page 1

tion in the category I won, was very tough,” Forren said. “There were several other CIO level people nominated, so I knew it would be tough to pull it out.

“Any award is special, but to receive a state-wide leadership award is very satisfying. Also, this is the first year that CIO/management level staff have been eligible, so to win one of the first awards is a real accomplishment.”

Mike Shank and Jenny Todd won “Best In-House Developed Application” for their work in creating an interactive water usage application for the DEP Web site.

It enables large-quantity water users, such as gas well drillers, to view the flow levels of the interested area. They do this by clicking on the area and viewing the water levels of the rivers and streams. This equips them with the knowledge to make decisions about whether the water bodies can handle any water withdrawal.

“The water withdrawal tool that Mike and Jenny worked on is a huge accomplishment,” Forren said.

“This was developed in-house with no contractor support. They did a great job and they should be very proud.”

Neil Chakrabarty won “Excellence in IT Service and Support” for his



DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman (far left), stands with award winners Jenny Todd, Neil Chakrabarty and Jerry Forren during the West Virginia Excellence in Information Technology awards ceremony. Mike Shank, another winner, is not pictured.

outstanding ability to give assistance to his office and DEP personnel.

“Neil is just a work horse!” Forren said. “He puts in a huge amount of time here at DEP, sometimes working 60 hours in a week. When I send out an e-mail to everyone concerning system downtime for a weekend, you can bet that Neil is the guy here working while we are all enjoying our time off.”

There are categories of awards, and except for the service award, there is only one award in each category for the entire state. So who decides and how are they decided on?

“There is a list of awards that are given out each year,” Forren explained. “These awards have changed very little over the last few years. Just because you are nominated, you don’t automatically win. Many people from different agencies are nominated in the different categories and with the exception of the service awards, there is only one winner.

“The winners are selected by representatives from many of the agencies. Each ‘judge’ is given a copy of the nominations and then there is a private vote. No one knows who voted for anyone. Once the votes are tallied, the judges come together to review

the winners and to break ties, if any occur. In some instances, when there is a tie, two awards may be given.”

Understandably, Forren is proud of the folks who work in his shop.

“I am very proud of my staff and what we have accomplished here at DEP,” he said. “We have many very talented individuals.

“I constantly receive comments from inside and outside of the agency about what a talented group I have here in ITO.

“These folks make my job easier, because they are so professional and willing to get the job done. DEP is fortunate to have such a great group of people.”

**PANEL**

Continued from Page 9

sites, as appropriate, to apprise the Director respecting administrative completeness of permits and to help assure consistent application of policies and procedures.”

The QA/QC panel meets nine times per year.

In 2010, the panel visited each DMR regional office; reviewed seven permit applications; visited Fola Coal Co.’s surface mine No.

4A, where it viewed a stream establishment mitigation project; reviewed and commented on the EPA’s April 1 Guidance Memo; reviewed one issued steep slope surface mine E-permit in its entirety; reviewed three pending steep slope surface mine E-permits; reviewed and provided comments on the AOC Oversight Report; and visited one AOC compliant and SWROA compliant site.

“We may look at permits one day and the second day go out and

check operations — to see how the permit application is going on out on the ground,” Alt said. “We look at things such as ‘Are they meeting AOC requirements? Are they meeting surface water runoff requirements?’

“We help reinforce what the inspector is telling the operator needs to be done. If the inspector has a problem, we want to look at it and help him come up with a solution.”

Alt said the panel works with inspectors,

not over their shoulders.

“He’s telling the company ‘You need to do this.’ A lot of times we come in and say ‘the inspector is right,’” Alt said.

Alt said the panel is beneficial because it gives the DMR director input from industry and environmental sectors, as well as the regulatory feedback.

“We disagree on some things,” Alt said of the panel, “but a lot of times we’re in agreement. We

See PANEL, Page 11

**TIME**

Continued from Page 9

Communications with parties interested in our various cleanup programs.

**3. Do you think more people would recycle if they worked at a landfill for a week?**

Perhaps. But I think a bigger incentive is to make “recycling” pay. I think a Bottle Bill would help to provide that incentive. I’m old enough to remember picking up pop bottles and cashing them in for 2 cents each at the local store to feed my candy habit.

**4. Just how big are those underground storage tanks at gas stations?**

Nowadays they can get pretty big — 30,000 gallons and maybe bigger. Many of the extra-large tanks have more than one compartment so they can store different grades or different products, because for billing purposes for tank fees, they’re considered just one tank.

**5. What are some intriguing items uncovered during brownfield cleanups?**

When I used to attend tank closures, I told the backhoe operator that I had squatters rights on any gold they uncovered ... never found any though. Otherwise, as you might expect, some cleanups involving excavation work may be like a walk back in time — finding products or remnants of former manufacturing operations, old foundations and utilities, old drawings. West Virginia has a rich history with glass, and sometimes there are intriguing finds of marbles and glassware and other artifacts.

**6. What is West Virginia’s potential when it comes to brownfield redevelopment?**

What is it the realtors say, “location, location, location?” I think West Virginia’s potential for brownfield redevelopment is excellent.

In addition to the natural resources that originally attracted manufacturing, the transportation infrastructure has and continues to improve with the Interstate highway system. It’s been said that we’re within a day’s drive of more than half the population in the country.

By fostering the redevelopment of brownfields and reducing

sprawl into our greenspaces, West Virginia can provide a high quality of life — not only for employment opportunities, but for recreation, too. While increased tourism brings problems by itself, West Virginia is well established as a wonderful outdoor recreation destination.

We need to be mindful of that as more and more tourists “discover” what we who live here all too often take for granted.

**7. Do you feel like you’re making a difference for the environment?**

Yes, I’ve always found my work with environmental protection for our state rewarding and fulfilling, and I like to hope that I’ve been able to make a positive impact and will leave a positive legacy.

**8. Before the Landfill Closure Assistance Program went into effect some 20 years ago, what procedures were used to shut down landfills?**

On a good day, they covered them with dirt and planted grass seed.

**9. Has anyone ever told you that you look like singer Tony Orlando?**

If I had a dollar for every time I’ve heard that, I’d probably be able to buy a new Jeep Rubicon.

**10. What do you like to do outside of the office?**

I enjoy the outdoors, my family, and friends, and I try to be a productive member of the community.

I like to ski, and am on the Courtesy Patrol at Canaan Valley Resort, so I *have to* ski 10 weekend days and one night a season. I enjoy the mountain streams — swimming and fishing, and like to travel and sightsee.

I like to help others. I am a member of Banks District VFD, Central Upshur Lions Club, and the FUMC Outreach Team. I’ve been to the Gulf Coast on three separate “alternative spring break” trips since Katrina with my daughters through my alma mater West Virginia Wesleyan. And I am planning to go again in March.

Those trips have sort of been an extension of the past 13 or 14 years, during which I’ve spent a week each summer in McDowell County with an Upshur County work team trying to help with home repairs to make them, safe, warm and dry.

# What’s next

*Coming up in November and December:*

- November is American Diabetes Month. Presentation TBA.
- Great American Smokeout — Stop smoking pledges and educational information will be distributed to employees. Signups for tobacco cessation classes for employees and spouses.
- Mountain Mission Food Drive — Food bins will be placed at each elevator in DEP headquarters throughout November. There will be a competition among floors to see which collects the most food.
- Toys for Tots — A competition will be held among floors to see which collects the most toys.
- Eating Right for the Holidays program — It will run through December.
- Stress Awareness Lunch N’ Learn scheduled for December. Date TBA.
- Two-day workshop on Sustainability Awareness, Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management Systems, Dec. 14-15, at DEP headquarters. To register go to: <http://apps.dep.wv.gov/registration>

**PANEL**

Continued from Page 10

work through our disagreements on a lot of things. Sometimes we

just have to agree to disagree.”

Among the trends noted in the panel’s 2010 report are: more deep mine applications;

more upland mine applications; smaller area encompassed in mine area; confounding issue and uncertainty regarding primacy and conflict-

ing federal objectives; increase in pending slurry impoundment permits to five; and increase in highwall mining operations.