

in depth

west virginia

department of environmental protection

Vol. 24, No. 7

September 2016

In This Issue ...

- DEP's Dam Safety ensures structures are safe, Page 2
- DEP honors employees with awards, Page 2
- 5,000 reasons to run a 5K, but one stands out, Page 3
- Date set for DEP's Fall Cleanup, Page 3
- Youth Environmental Program has great year, Page 5
- Recent hires and upcoming retirements, Page 6

Citizen Science Gathering Set For Morgantown

"CitSci" designed to help provide reliable data

by Jake Glance

The Environmental Advocate's Office of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is teaming with West Virginia University, Trout Unlimited, and several other groups to host a Citizen Science gathering Sept. 24 in Morgantown.

Citizen Science has become a hot

topic, as more and more people look to provide citable data to environmental regulators.

"Citizen volunteers and monitors are the backbone of a good regulatory program," said Wendy Radcliff, the DEP's Environmental Advocate.

"They care about their community and work hundreds of volunteer hours each year to preserve and protect it."

Presentations and discussions will help citizen scientists learn more about how the data they collect and provide can be used when developing environmental regulations.

How to make sure collection methods are accurate and how to present that data will be discussed at the one-day summit, to be held at WVU's College of Law on Sept. 24.

The registration fee is \$20 and the registration deadline is Sept. 14.

The keynote speaker for the event is Davitt McAteer, a renowned mine safety expert. He will discuss the legal applications of citizen science.

There will also be presentations from representatives from PublicLab.org and the Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project.

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers Honored at Tamarack

Volunteer of the Year, longtime groups recognized

by Jake Glance

Hundreds of Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) volunteers descended upon Tamarack in Raleigh County on Aug. 6 - not to pick up litter, but to accept awards for their countless hours of hard work.

The annual AAH volunteer appreciation event also included activities for children and plenty of food for those who help keep West Virginia's roadways free of litter.

AAH is a partnership between the DEP and the Division of Highways (DOH). The program, which began in 1988, helps ensure thousands of miles



Adopt-A-Highway coordinator Kim Smith (left) and the Division of Highway's Tracy Estel (right) presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Kathy Hornsby of Table Rock, Raleigh County.

of road are kept free of litter.

"This event is all for the volunteers," said the DEP's Kim Smith, coordinator of the AAH program.

"It's hard to imagine what our roadways would look like if it wasn't for these folks who take great pride in their community's roads and take it upon themselves to make sure they are

clean. We can't thank them enough for all of the work they do."

Kathy Hornsby of Table Rock, Raleigh County, was honored as this year's Volunteer of the Year, for her continued dedication to the AAH program and her efforts to organize several cleanup events.

See AAH, Page 5

DEP Again Teaming With ReStore For Latex Paint Drive

by Jake Glance

After obsessing over paint palettes and searching for the best deal, you finally bought all the paint you'd need to make your guest room look like the one you saw on HGTV.

Then you went on vacation, started another project, and decided to start training for that 5K race.

The paint? It just collected dust in your garage. Now, you guess the guest room looks good enough the way it is.

But what to do with the paint you bought? Chances are, you won't be painting another room "Bordeaux" any time soon.

You should bring it to the DEP headquarters on Sept. 14 for the annual latex paint drive. All the paint will be donated to the Habitat for Humanity's ReStore.

See ReStore, Page 5

Dam Right

DEP's Dam Safety Engineers busy following historic rainfall

by Jake Glance

When heavy rainfall hits West Virginia, it is a guarantee that citizens and media will soon ask the same - and very important to public safety - question.

"How are the dams holding up?"

That was again true during the historic rainfall in June, which resulted in devastating flash flooding and the deaths of nearly two dozen people.



Immediately after the storm, engineers with the DEP's Dam Safety section fanned out across the state, checking on dams to make sure they were functioning the way they are supposed to.

Often that means the activation of emergency spillways to allow water to flow out of lakes before the dam is overtopped.

One of those engineers, Paul Frantz, returned to Lake Stephens Dam in Raleigh County on Aug. 2. The dam is an earth filled dam that is 74 feet high.

Frantz instantly indicated that the dam is labeled "deficient," because the spillways are insufficient.

Under the roadway on top of the dam, there are three arched culverts - 18, 15, and 12-feet wide - where water can flow out of the lake and down a steep incline.

"This is the principle spillway," Frantz said, standing in slow-moving water about two inches deep.

"It will handle the 100-year storm, and maybe a little more," he said.

"If the rain continues, the emergency spillway would be activated. The water would be discharged near the toe of the downstream slope of the dam, and that's not good."

Frantz also walked slowly along the dam's nearly 500-foot length, close-



Paul Frantz of the DEP's Dam Safety section inspected Lake Stephens in Raleigh County on Aug. 2. Dam inspections can last several hours and involve a close examination of dozens of features of the dam.

ly looking for burrows made by animals or erosion caused by the rising and falling of the water level in the lake.

"There is wave erosion on the upstream slope of the dam," he said, pointing to spots where soil has fallen into the water.

"They need to fix that," he said as he takes a picture of the waterline.

He admitted he likely takes more pictures than most other dam safety engineers. His report on Lake Stephens has 17 pages of pictures - a total of 100 individual shots of everything from seepage boxes to drain structures to potholes in the road that runs along the crest of the dam.

"I take pictures of everything. I keep them so we can better track the changes of certain areas of the dam over time. We can see if a situation has gotten worse over the last couple months, in the last couple years. A camera's eye won't lie," he said.

All of these tiny details - from burrows in the upstream slope, to the width of spillways, to potholes in the road - paint a picture of the overall status of the dam.

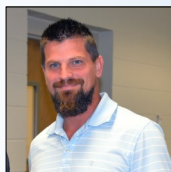
And while some things were good, such as the grass being cut regularly and there being no sign of settlement, the dam is given a rating of "Poor."

The inspection reports reads, "The emergency spillway is inadequate because it will not pass a Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) storm event that will cause the dam to overtop and possibly fail. Therefore, the condition of the dam is rated as poor. The overall condition of the dam constitutes a 'Dangerous Problem' as defined in the Dam Safety Rule (DSR)."

Under the DSR, the dam is said to be in "Dangerous Condition," meaning that the "observed condition may lead to failure of the dam."

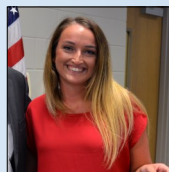
See SAFETY, Page 5

Congratulations Employee of the Month and Rewards & Recognition Award Recipients!



After being with the agency for only four years, Mark Collins has exceeded expectations in the management of all Water Management Plans (WMPs) for the entire horizontal well

drilling industry. He has reviewed and approved 436 new WMP's and 128 modifications to date and has never held up a single oil and gas permit. Not only has he managed the WMP's, but has also created impingement and entrainment BMP's, streamlined the WMP process to deal with the evolution of the industry, managed all public water withdrawal complaints, and field verified numerous pass-by flows at water withdrawal locations. For these reasons, Mark Collins of the Water Use Section has been selected as the agency's August Employee of the Month.



Tyler Harman has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to aid in one of the biggest transitions state government has seen in decades. Her diligence and dedication in working toward transitioning from the in-

house ERIS timekeeping system to the new statewide KRONOS system has been described as nothing short of incredible. Even with the additional increased workload during this time of transition, she always remained reliable and accessible, not only to her fellow staff, but to all employees. She recently took on the project of investigating every employee's transaction histories, personnel files, and breaks in service in order to calculate tenure dates for OASIS. For these reasons Tyler Harman of the Human Resources group has been selected to receive a Rewards & Recognition Award.



David Gilbert & David Scranage are assigned statewide duties within the Office of Oil and Gas' Abandoned Well Plugging Program. Equally, both worked last fall to design and

implement a special well plugging project. An abandoned and partially plugged oil well was revealed underneath the floorings of an apartment complex that involved joint efforts of the DEP, a landowner, and U.S. EPA Region 3. They found that the well was not plugged according to today's standards - but through their hard work the well was cleaned and plugged. For introducing new process thinking and reducing the health, safety, and environmental risk for this Wheeling project, David Gilbert and David Scranage have been selected to receive a Rewards & Recognition Award.

Ten Questions with DLR's Casey Korbini

What is your position with DEP and how long have you been with the agency?

My title is Environmental Resources Specialist 3 and I have been with DEP for five years.

What are your daily duties with DEP?

No two days are the same, and that's one of the things I love about my job. I provide support for all OER (Office of Environmental Remediation) programs and work closely with our Brownfields program. I also frequently assume responsibility for several special projects for OER.

Without using the words "environment" or "protect," what do you think is the mission of the DEP?

Making West Virginia a better place to live, work, and play.

Where did you grow up?

Follansbee, West Virginia.

What did you study in college, and how did that prepare you for your work at DEP?

I went to a business school and concentrated in management. Then I minored in environmental studies in

our college of arts and sciences. I think this gives me a unique perspective on efficiency during environmental cleanups, as well as understanding the need to work as a team and collaborate with stakeholders both inside and outside of the agency.

Someone walks into your office and offers you a free plane ticket to anywhere in the world. Where are you going to go?

I would fly to Scotland, where we still have family that keeps in contact. Then I would take a train to England to visit my college roommate.

What would you put into a time capsule that was to be opened by DEP staff in the year 2066?

A strawberry lady email or OASIS instructions.

Star Wars or Star Trek?

Neither!

What is the craziest thing that has happened to you while on the job at DEP?

I don't know about the craziest thing that has happened to me, but my most exciting days on the job have



Casey Korbini

included touring an old steel mill almost completely intact, walking through an old city dump with old appliances exposed, and seeing drums of material uncovered in an open field.

What do you think is the biggest issue facing West Virginia's environmental quality?

I am concerned about protecting the remedies we put in place for risk-based cleanups and how those will remain effective in perpetuity.

DEP Fall Cleanup Set for Sept. 9

by Jake Glance

The date for the DEP's Fall Cleanup has been set for Friday, Sept. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This is the day when all DEP employees are encouraged to get rid of unwanted items from office spaces, file rooms, and storage rooms. Copy centers, conference rooms, and break rooms can also be cleaned. Standard and secure recycle bins will be available on all floors in the elevator lobbies.

Cleaning supplies are available from each DEP facility's cleanup coordinator. The cleanup coordinators are: Jeremiah Johnson in Charleston, Amanda Skaggs in Oak Hill, Patty Wagers in Welch, Benny Campbell in Logan, Betty Cox in Philippi, Victoria Derosa in Bridgeport, Donna Betonte in Fairmont, Robin Dolly in Romney, Alan Kees in Teays, Rusty Joins in Elkview, Sharon Seever in Wheeling, Danny McFarland in Summersville, Callie Sams in French Creek, and Shyrel Moellendick in Parkersburg.

Gov. Tomblin: Hobet Project Holds Vast Promise For West Virginians

A column by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin

Just down the road from Charleston in Boone and Lincoln counties lies something unique and promising in Southern West Virginia - approximately 12,000 acres of flat land ideal for new businesses and with the potential for a level of job creation that would be a game changer for our state.



Governor Tomblin

Early this year, I announced plans to turn this former mine site into what I believe could be an economic epicenter for West Virginia. This is a bold, "blue sky" proposal unlike anything we have seen in our state previously - and today, I stand just as firmly behind this public-private plan and the potential it holds.

Over the past eight months, I have worked closely with Commerce Secre-

tary Keith Burdette and his team at the Development Office, a wide cross-section of state agencies, Marshall University and West Virginia University, local officials, landowners and many others to begin paving the way for the largest industrial site in West Virginia history at the former Hobet surface mine.

We have been moving quickly.

We recently submitted a technical assistance grant application to the Appalachian Regional Commission through its POWER initiative. If awarded, this money would allow us to develop a detailed economic assessment and strategic plan for the best use of the site - a critical step toward making the land usable for business and industry.

In addition, the Division of Highways is working with potential contractors on plans for a 2.6-mile road that will open up access to the site. We are confident the cost of the road could be largely - and maybe even fully - covered by federal funds. In fact, by 2020, the new Federal Highway Bill will increase the amount of federal dollars for West Virginia's highways by \$204 million compared to the amount we

received last year - and I thank our congressional delegation for their support of this legislation.

We also are looking at an innovative approach to funding for the roadway through bonds that are secured by future federal highway funds - which would even further minimize any potential impact on our state highway fund.

This is an investment in the future of Southern West Virginia, and I believe the returns will vastly exceed it.

While we plan for the road construction, Marshall University has completed an initial round of mapping to identify prospective sites for industrial development. This has allowed us to outline strategic phases for the project - phases that visualize dozens of industrial, recreational and commercial plots of land.

We also continue working with local landowners to secure needed land titles for developable acreage. Quite simply, this project will not be possible without them - and I appreciate their collaboration.

If we succeed in this project - and I believe we must - we will be seizing an

opportunity to revitalize Southern West Virginia by creating targeted economic restructuring in areas hardest hit by the downturn in the coal industry. Moreover, we will be doing so in an area that has an available workforce of more than 400,000 people, many of whom are highly skilled and unemployed or underemployed.

We all know what has happened in Southern West Virginia with the loss of thousands of coal-related jobs. And we have all seen the impact of these drastic changes on families, on our economy and on our state budget. Without a source of new jobs in this region of our state, hardworking West Virginians will pack up and leave. They will have no other choice.

We owe it to each and every West Virginian impacted by the decline of the coal industry to realize the full potential of the Hobet project. I believe this is the best, most promising way forward to ensure Southern West Virginia is a place where people want to work, a place they are proud to call home - a place where they can stay and support their families because new economic opportunities are flourishing.

Whittling Down the Bucket List

But what are the most important reasons for running a 5K? Better health, self-esteem and more quality time with family

by Colleen O'Neill



The DEP's Jamie Chambers crosses the finish line during a 5K race earlier this year. She credits her accomplishment to encouragement from her DEP family, most notably Rachel Kerns, Christina Richmond, and Jean Shepard.

Many people have a bucket list of things they want to do before they die or before some other significant date.

For Jamie Chambers, that bucket list included running a 5K.

"5K" is short for a 5 kilometer - or about 3.1-mile - run.

"The 5K was one of many things that I have on my bucket list," Chambers, the DEP's internal auditor, said.

"I'm not sure why I was set on doing the 5K before I turned 40. One thing about my bucket list, I had to be a lot healthier than I was at the time to do over half of the items on the list."

"As I was working toward race day, I received a lot of support from many of our DEP family."

- Jamie Chambers

Chambers had been attempting this goal for years, but it always seemed just out of reach.

After failed attempts to obtain this brass ring on her own, she decided to seek some help.

"It started with seeing a flyer on Facebook about a 5K for Girls on the Run, which is a group that helps learn self-esteem and leadership skills," she explained.

"I made a comment on the post expressing my interest but uncertainty about being able to run a race. My friend, Rachel Kerns, came to talk to me the same morning and offered to help me train for the race."

Striving toward her goal of the 5K, Chambers encountered self-doubt.

"The mind sometimes tends to sabotage you. Self-doubt can make the possible seem impossible. This time, I was lucky enough to have a support

group. With someone there to help calm those fears, it seemed - and was - doable," she said.

"As I was working toward race day, I received a lot of support from many of our DEP family."

The Twilight Tuesday Run/Walk for West Virginia Children on April 26 was Jamie's first race. It began and ended at the University of Charleston.

Her fear of finishing last was obliterated as she finished 63rd out of 133 runners.

"In addition to providing encouragement, Rachel helped me find an app for my phone (c25k) that helped me/us train for the race, and thankfully, she has been my running buddy. We normally run on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch time. Rachel is such a positive person and a wonderful coach - I can't thank her enough!"

"I got a really wonderful and big surprise when Christina Richmond and Jane Caswell said they were going to walk the race with me. Christina actually ran most of it." Chambers gushed.

"Jean Shepard came out for support, too."

Chambers continues to run, even

though the 5K accomplishment has been marked off her bucket list.

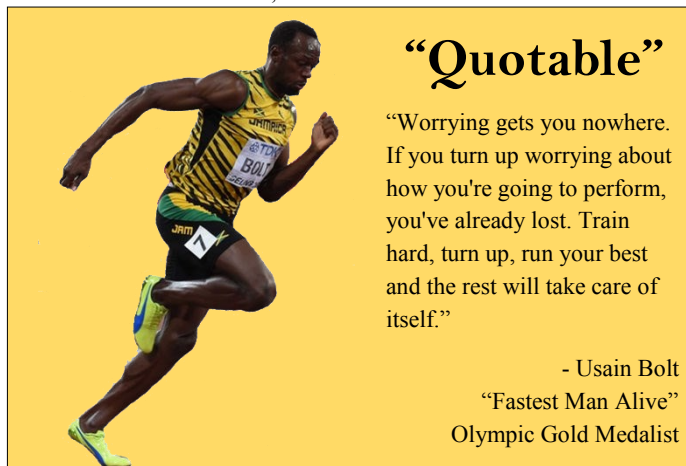
She explained that now she feels better. She also has lost weight, and inches, and has newer, smaller clothes.

This "awakening" has inspired her to make some changes in her life, like taking care of herself first.

But what makes her proudest is

Five 5K Facts

1. According to Running USA, more women run 5K races than men.
2. The largest 5K race in the USA is the Hot Chocolate 5K in Chicago, with more than 20,000 runners.
3. The 5K has been part of the Olympics since 1912 for men and 1996 for women.
4. The men's record for the 5K is 12:37, set by Kenenisa Bekele.
5. The women's record for the 5K is 14:11, set by Tirunesh Dibaba.



"Quotable"

"Worrying gets you nowhere. If you turn up worrying about how you're going to perform, you've already lost. Train hard, turn up, run your best and the rest will take care of itself."

- Usain Bolt

"Fastest Man Alive"
Olympic Gold Medalist

how her improved health is resulting in more quality time with her family.

"I would have to say the biggest benefit of getting healthier was realized on a day when I was able to spend the day with my grandson and I was able to run and play with him all day long," Chambers proudly said..

"The fact that grandma can hang was the most rewarding feeling I have had in years!"



Earl Ray Tomblin

Governor

Randy C. Huffman

Cabinet Secretary

Kelley Gillenwater

Communications Director

Jake Glance

Editor

DEP Public Information Office

601 57th Street SE

Charleston, WV 25304

Jacob.P.Glance@wv.gov

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

2016: A Sweet Year For Youth Environmental Program

Numbers tell the story of a successful and vital program

Total Enrollment Statewide
92,245 members in 878 clubs

Enrollment by District

- Dist. 1: 100 clubs, 11,179 members
- Dist. 2: 101 clubs, 11,807 members
- Dist. 3: 183 clubs, 21,945 members
- Dist. 4: 186 clubs, 12,224 members
- Dist. 5: 142 clubs, 19,621 members
- Dist. 6: 166 clubs, 15,469 members

Recycling

- 11,152 volunteer hours
- 12,499lbs of aluminum
- 120,347lbs of steel
- 2,420lbs of glass
- 87,951lbs of paper
- 15,175lbs of plastic
- 2,937lbs of cardboard
- 27,842 pop can tabs
- 270,077 plastic bags
- 317 electronics

Litter Control

- 118 miles of roads cleaned
- 85 areas cleaned
- 15 streams/rivers cleaned
- 84 tires collected
- 1,805 bags of trash collected

Beautification

- 5,461 flowers/shrubs planted
- 2,901 trees planted

Other Projects Completed

- 7 trails cleaned/maintained
- 7 forest fire prevention classes
- 32 environmental ed classes
- 18 wildlife mgmt. classes
- 7 backyard composting classes
- 3 watershed protection classes
- 6 state parks projects



SAFETY

Con't from Page 2

The inspection report goes on to state that "The observed condition does not currently rise to "Emergency Condition" which is an imminently dangerous condition where failure of the dam is possible at any time."

The report also makes 21 recommendations on improvements to the dam, including continued monitoring of uneven flow into the principal spillway, repairing animal burrows, and repairing the road along the crest.

It's those recommendations that will be checked on during the next inspection. Frantz said no dam is ever given a perfect inspection, and that something can always be done to make the structure safer.

AAH

Con't from Page 1

In addition to the Volunteer of the Year award, groups and individuals from across the state were recognized for their outstanding achievements and continued dedication to AAH.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the members of the Spanishburg Ruritan Club of Mercer County, for collecting approximately 1,219 bags of litter since 1991.

The Most Active Group Awards went to the Lincoln Triangle Residents

of Hancock County, for holding seven cleanup events since Sept. 2015.

The award for the Most Litter Collected in One Year was given to Greg and Juanita Ross and family, for collecting more than 130 bags of litter.

Grandfather Awards were presented to groups who have shown years of dedication to the goals of the Adopt-A-Highway program.

The Grandfather Awards were presented to:

- Bowers Farms USA of Pendleton County, participant since 1994;
- Community United Methodist Church of Monongalia County, partici-

pant since 1989;

- Cox and Cox of Ritchie County, participant since 1989;
- Dyer Pioneer 4H Club of Webster County, participant since 1989;
- Ellamore Volunteer Fire Department of Randolph County, participant since 1992;
- Enon Baptist Church #1 of Greenbrier County, participant since 1990;
- Enon Baptist Church #2 of Greenbrier County, participant since 1996;
- High Country Garden Club #1 of Fayette County, participant since 1989;

- High Country Garden Club #2 of Fayette County, participant since 1989;
- Izaak Walton League of Randolph County, participant since 1989;
- Joe's Run Crusaders 4H of Jackson County, participant since 1996;
- McDowell County Correctional Facility, participant since 1993;
- Mill Creek Saw Shop of Hampshire County, participant since 1993;
- Renick Ruritan Club of Greenbrier County, participant since 1993;
- Sinks Grove CEOS of Monroe County, participant since 1989;
- Spanishburg Ruritan Club of Mercer County, participant since 1991.

RESTORE

Con't from Page 1

"The ReStore is a sustainable funding initiative for Habitat for Humanity of Kanawha and Putnam," said Courtney Crabtree, the donations manager for ReStore.

"The paint department has become an integral part of the ReStore offerings, thanks in part to a REAP grant which we received three years ago. In

2014, we sold approximately 3,216 gallons, and we were able to increase that to 3,716 gallons in 2015."

Any color of paint in any volume will be accepted, provided that it is latex paint. The paint will be filtered and then repackaged and sold.

Supplies of paint, like all donations, are greatly reduced in the winter and paint drives like these help ensure there will be enough paint to continue remixing latex paint until spring, said Crabtree.

"Paint is one of the few items customers know we will always have, which is a draw, and helps us increase overall sales. Our paint department alone has brought in over \$100,000 in sales since we started the program in 2012."

Paint should never be poured down the drain. It can be allowed to dry and thrown away, however. It can also be mixed with saw dust if there is a lot of paint left in a can.

But donating it to ReStore means

vital funding for Habitat for Humanity's mission.

"Proceeds from this paint drive and our store help families have decent, affordable housing. Through shelter, empower. A decent place to live and an affordable mortgage helps homeowners save more, invest in education, pursue opportunities, and have more financial stability," said Crabtree.

Paint donations can be made from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 14 in the garage of the DEP headquarters.

Recent Hires

- Jonathan Carney, Division of Air Quality
- Jane Caswell, Executive
- Matthew Codispoti, Division of Air Quality
- Logan Dominick, Environmental Enforcement
- Benjamin Fancher, Division of Land Restoration
- Thomas Hymes, Business and Technology Office
- Dominique Madison, Division of Water and Waste Management
- Chad Swick, Environmental Enforcement
- Matthew "Chad" Thompson, Division of Water and Waste Management
- Julie Wandling, Division of Water and Waste Management

Recent/Upcoming Retirements

- David Gay, Division of Mining and Reclamation
- Elbert Morton, Division of Water and Waste Management

