



Environmental Awards



Earl Ray Tomblin,
Governor

Randy C. Huffman,
DEP Cabinet Secretary



west virginia department of environmental protection

CONGRATULATIONS

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Awards recognize the accomplishments of state industries, municipalities, educators and community leaders who strive to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors, and educate the state's citizens.

The DEP's mission is to promote a healthy environment. These awards are being presented to those who share our mission and practice environmental stewardship.

Eligibility for the industrial awards includes exemplary environmental performance in the last two calendar years, a history that shows no outstanding violations and a record of compliance with regulatory authorities. Facilities were nominated by the environmental inspectors who work to ensure their compliance with the law and by other DEP personnel who work with volunteer efforts.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT LESS THAN 400,000 GPD

CITY OF WAR -- WAR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

War, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Michael Puckett

The City of War operates and maintains a wastewater collection system and a treatment plant comprised of a lift station, a mechanical bar screen, a manual bar screen, grit removal facilities, two reactor chambers with a volume of 129,700 gallons each, which function as an integral clarifier with a surface area of 1,156 square feet each, ultraviolet disinfection facilities, an aerobic digester with a volume of 86,500 gallons, a 12 bag sludge dewatering system, and all requisite appurtenances. These facilities are to serve a population equivalent of approximately 1,100 persons in the City of War, and environs, and discharge treated wastewater to Dry Fork, approximately 21.2 miles from the mouth of the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River. This facility was permitted for operation on Oct. 27, 1998. There have been no reported spills, bypasses or significant operation or compliance issues to date. Much of this is due to the dedication and due diligence of its sole operator, Mr. Jerry Crabtree.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT LESS THAN 400,000 GPD MOST IMPROVED

Upshur County Board of Education Wastewater Treatment Plants

Buckhannon, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Stanley Wolfe

The Upshur County Schools' Maintenance Department has many roles at the various schools throughout the county, including the treatment and improvement of wastewater that provides positive environmental impacts on our school communities. In 2001, a new wastewater treatment plant was installed at Rock Cave Elementary School. The extended aeration plant operates using ultra violet (UV) light, which creates purified discharge water without the use of chemicals. Buckhannon-Upshur High School received a new lift station. In 2006, a new sand filtering system was added to the existing wastewater treatment plant at Washington District Elementary School. In 2008, French Creek Elementary School received an upgrade on the existing sewer drainage system, which eliminated surface water contamination from outside sources. At Union Elementary School, improvements included a new grinder pump, a timer system and a new plastic filtering system. In 2009, Chief Plant Operator Matthew Friend completed Class I and II wastewater treatment classes and successfully passed the Class I Wastewater Operators examination in May 2011. Matthew's training and the upgrades to the wastewater treatment facilities has enabled Upshur County Schools to decrease the total number of excursions issued by the WVDEP from 71 in 2000 to three in 2010.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD

City of Buckhannon Wastewater Treatment and Collection

Buckhannon, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Stanley Wolfe

Near the end of the 1987 EPA-supported sewer system upgrade project, then-Mayor Tony Gum directed the Sewer Department line crew to construct the 250 sewer customer reconnections required as a result of the new sewers built during that project. That effort took nearly two years to complete, but it began a period of self-sufficiency within the Sewer Department. With active support from the Sanitary Board, currently comprised of Mayor Kenny Davidson and members Phil Loftis and Jay Hollen, department crews have developed the capability to undertake a variety of maintenance and upgrade projects which have provided for effective customer service and satisfactory regulatory performance. During the intervening time, Sewer Department crews have constructed 22 miles of sewers, built new or renovated nine pump stations, and completed numerous plant improvement projects, always while maintaining customer service and treatment plant performance. The department accepts full responsibility for its performance and is very aggressive about addressing problems. If something does not work correctly, the department is quick to plan and undertake a project that will make it better. Pride in its facilities and work, and the knowledge that it will have to fix it if it does not work assures high-quality workmanship.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD MOST IMPROVED

West Virginia American Water – Fayetteville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Fayetteville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Ronald Garrett

Since its acquisition of the Fayetteville Wastewater Treatment Plant, West Virginia American Water has been extraordinarily active in implementing an aggressive process control program at the wastewater treatment plant. It has installed automatic monitoring equipment throughout the plant, and has installed a new computer system to improve records management and plant operations. West Virginia American Water has also implemented a very aggressive program to identify and eliminate sources of I&I in the wastewater collection system for this facility, which has resulted in the repair and/or replacement of numerous sections in the collection system. West Virginia American Water has also made substantial improvements and upgrades of the lift stations associated with the wastewater collection system.

MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

Waste Management -- Disposal Services Inc.

Hurricane, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Kevin Saunders

Disposal Services Inc. is a municipal landfill operated by Waste Management in Hurricane. This landfill has remained in compliance with environmental regulations since late 2009 and consistently garners inspection reports with only minor deficiencies, if any. When problems are observed or anticipated, quick action is taken by the landfill personnel. Mike Legg, the site manager, is very detail-oriented and his attentiveness is certainly an asset. Brad Ross, district manager, and Craig Arnold, environmental protection manager, also deserve credit for contributing to the continued success of this facility in maintaining compliance with the WVDEP. Finally, the operators on site are of critical importance and their proficiency has not gone unnoticed by their supervisors. While other landfills in West Virginia also operate well, DSI is notable for the consistency with which it maintains optimal function and for remaining in compliance even when adverse weather and other unexpected complications arise.

MUNICIPAL LANDFILL MOST IMPROVED

Republic Services – Sycamore Landfill

Hurricane, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Kevin Saunders

Sycamore Landfill incurred nine notices of violation in 2009 and seven by February of 2010, which resulted in a civil administrative penalty. Delson Kiedaisch was hired as the on-site operations manager in February 2010 and took quick action to remedy problems that were not properly addressed previously. Delson's efforts to bring the facility into compliance were successful and there have been no additional NOV's in any of the nine inspections since February 2010. Rather than hydroseeding, Sycamore installed straw mats to support revegetation efforts and provide erosion/sediment control in 2010. While the initial cost was higher, these mats have done an excellent job preventing erosion and supporting new vegetation. Escaping wind-blown material, inadequate cover, and leachate contamination of storm water were persistent sources of non-compliance in 2009. However, wind-blown material has been well controlled, landfill cover has been adequate, and no contamination of storm water by leachate has been observed since the February 2010 inspection. In short, there have been drastic improvements at Sycamore Landfill since early 2010 and the personnel deserve commendation for their success in bringing the facility back into compliance.

CLEAN ENERGY AWARD

Wyoming County Career and Technical Center

Pineville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Gene Coccari

Students in the Wyoming County Career and Technical Center's Renewable Energy Education Class, in addition to learning electrician skills that can be used in the area's coal mines, are also being trained to build and install an 8 kW photovoltaic (PV) system as part of their curriculum. Through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Schools Program, Dan McKinney, an instructor at the Center, is providing the training, curriculum and supplies to build and install the PV panels on-site. The panels are expected to save close to \$1,600 per year in energy costs. This PV system will utilize a Sunny WebBox, a web interface with the converter so that electricity production can be viewed in real time. Hughes Supply Industrial Electric, a local engineering and energy management company, will provide technical assistance and work with Appalachian Power to connect the panels to the power grid with a net-metering system. Every kW saved in West Virginia is \$0.09 earned.

INDUSTRY LESS THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

City of White Sulphur Springs Water Treatment Plant

White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Susan Kershner

The White Sulphur Springs Water Treatment Plant employs three full-time and one-part time employee. The plant runs an average of 16 hours per day, seven days a week. The treatment plant meets and exceeds all state and federal regulations. Raw water is pumped from two wells placed on plant property. The raw water has no bacteria, chemicals, or metals harmful for human consumption. The raw water has calcium hardness of approximately 335 parts per million. The plant's softening process reduces that to 120 to 130 parts per million. The plant currently can produce one million gallons of water per day. The plant will soon begin an upgrade, which will almost double the gallons of water it can produce daily. Also in this upgrade, there will be a number of water lines replaced, to reduce the loss of water. During the upgrade, there will be new water meters installed and a computerized meter reading system.

INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Phillips Machine Services, Inc.

Beckley, WV

DEP Sponsor: Ronald Garrett

Phillips Machine Services, Inc., is one of the largest full-service companies in the state which provides almost all phases of repair, remanufacture, fabrication, development and sales of mining machinery. Phillips Machine has voluntarily installed five oil/water separators and two sedimentation ponds on its property to minimize any environmental impact of discharges from its facility in Beckley. Phillips has achieved compliance with all NPDES permit effluent limitations during the last year. Phillips Machine has made health, safety and the environment its No. 1 priority. Phillips has established an aggressive program for maintaining compliance with these priorities and has taken a proactive approach to eliminating any environmental problems at its facility. Phillips has also voluntarily agreed to work with mining companies to provide classroom instruction related to safety and environmental concerns. Phillips has also invited vocational schools to visit this facility to observe job performance with emphasis on health, safety and environmental issues. Phillips has also provided assistance to other companies of this type in the development of their environmental programs.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Wayne Eads

Webster County Solid Waste Authority

Webster Springs, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Theodora Plumley

Wayne Eads was appointed in 2000 to work with the Solid Waste Authority. In recent years, he has devoted much of his time to the development of a Community Service Work Program, where those sentenced to community service may work off their hours by cleaning up open dumps and picking up roadside litter. In 2010, the program collected approximately 1,024 bags of roadside litter, plus 47 bags of litter and 135 tires from a two-mile area of the Monongahela National Forest Campground. In other practices, Wayne works with conservation officers in litter control efforts and DEP educational programs, such as the Youth Environmental Program. The YEP empowers youth of West Virginia to become environmentally involved within their communities. Wayne also serves on the Main Street Committee, is active in the local watershed group and worked with the county commission in removing eight dilapidated houses. Efforts like that have helped Webster County win a West Virginia Make It Shine Award nine years in a row.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sara Wuertenberg

Eastern Panhandle Conservation District

Martinsburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Rose Long

Sara Wuertenberg serves as the Education Outreach Specialist for the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District in Martinsburg. Her responsibilities include the promotion of the conservation district's environmental education programs, while working with schools, community organizations and watershed groups in her area. With determination, resourcefulness and enduring commitment toward the environment, Sara works closely with other agencies to further environmental literacy and awareness of groundwater, watersheds and wetlands. Sara has integrated environmental enhancement projects and education by taking the lead to reconstruct a wetland at the Widmyer School in Morgan County with a grant from the DEP Nonpoint Source Program. In addition, she scheduled and helped to conduct four Project

WET teacher training workshops in Morgan and Berkeley counties to assist teachers with resources and educational materials. The Widmyer wetland site is now a viable outdoor learning classroom where local teachers involve students with hands-on activities and field observations. Sara is making a difference in her area by teaching about the environment and by promoting the use of the outdoors as a place for students to learn and take action.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Pleasants County Solid Waste Authority -- Pleasants County Recycling Center

St. Marys, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Sandra Rogers

The Pleasants County SWA took over complete management and operation of the Pleasants County Recycling Center in July of 2010. In the past 17 years, the most material ever collected and recycled in one year was around 500 tons. The total tonnage for 2009 was near 126 tons. Since July, 2010, the recycling center has recycled 467 tons of material, including cardboard, newsprint, aluminum and steel cans, plastic, glass and textiles. This is a great demonstration of reformation and success. The Pleasants County SWA has and continues to work diligently toward resolving issues to improve recycling opportunities to residents and communities. Curbside pickup recycling continues for the residents of St. Marys and was expanded to the residents in the city of Belmont in September, 2010. The county also began collecting recyclables from the St. Marys Correctional Center and an industrial manufacturer. It continues to seek industrial site participation to increase recycling and diversion from the waste stream. The Pleasants County SWA recognizes the importance of public education and awareness of recycling and waste. It has focused on developing educational materials for students and residents. It has reached out to schools with this educational program offering to perform presentations, tours and provide support for the schools recycling programs.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Friends of the Second Creek

Second Creek, W.Va.

DEP Sponsors: Teresa Koon and Jennifer DuPree

Friends of The Second Creek, Inc. (FOTSC) partnered with the Monroe County 4-H to reach out to youth about watersheds and the life therein. FOTSC created a watershed project book and 4-H was able to complement the project book work with support for three Saturday watershed gatherings held to give kids a more comprehensive hands-on look at the watershed. The 4-H program began with a project book titled "7 Wild, Wonderful Wonders of the Watershed in Monroe County, WV." FOTSC had its first watershed gathering in March 2010, where hands-on experiences were provided using the Enviroscope, Karst/Caving and the "Sum of All Parts" watershed exercise. The second gathering was held in May and subjects covered included "Critters," Ground Water, Reading Topo Maps, Introduction to Stream Monitoring, Brook Trout & Clams and Enviroscope Ventures. The third gathering, held at Organ Cave, allowed the students to get to "know" and learn about karst, enjoy a picnic and gather bugs from Second Creek. It was a valuable and meaningful experience for the 4-H youth and will be continued in 2011.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Don Gasper

Buckhannon, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Theodora Plumley

Don Gasper, a retired fish biologist, is a long-time steward of the environment and a proponent of conservation education on the community, state and national level. As a board member of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, he worked diligently to help guide the organization to educated and informed decisions in accordance with organization's mission statement. As a fish biologist and private citizen, he spent much time with the Forest Service developing the guidance documents for new national forest plans. As a board member with The Buckhannon River Watershed Association, Don teamed up science students and teachers at Buckhannon-Upshur High School and West Virginia Wesleyan College to measure the water quality of the Buckhannon River Watershed. The project resulted in the collection and analysis of over 50 stream water samples. Because all of the samples were collected and analyzed on the same day, a "snapshot" of the water quality was captured at normal flows for this date. As member of the Upshur County Litter Control committee, Don volunteered to help the county in its cleanup and recycling efforts through much of the year. Through his efforts, the committee was able to send several Upshur County students to the West Virginia Senior and Junior Conservation Camps, providing students a chance to become more environmentally aware and to explore opportunities in conservation and environmental professions. Don is also a member of the planning board and staff of the Tri-State Fishing and Conservation Camp. This camp allows West Virginia high school-age students to learn fishing techniques from some of the nation's premier fishermen, along with conservation and environmental insights from regional professionals in their prospective environmental and conservation fields.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Opequon Creek Project Team

Martinsburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsors: Teresa Koon and Alana Hartman

The Opequon Creek Project Team, a "watershed association" with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, was formed in April 2005 to plan and implement nonpoint source pollution reduction projects in the Martinsburg area. The team of volunteers quickly has become a dynamic force of progress in the community's effort to protect and enhance its natural resources. Throughout 2010, their monthly meetings included presentations on topics of interest to the watershed residents. To decrease stormwater runoff, members promoted use of rain barrels through workshops, fairs and festivals. They conducted a "Buffer in a Bag" program (free trees to streamside residents), and they taught people how these trees and shrubs would stabilize the earth and filter pollution runoff. A clean stream means good fishing, and OCPT demonstrated this during Free Fishing Days by setting up a display with five fish species swimming in a pool filled with creek water. And for those interested in water recreation, OPCT sponsored float trips to celebrate the beauty of the waterway and to give people the fish-eye view. These trips provided people with a connection to the creek, and resulted in the recruitment of volunteers willing to work to protect it.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Deborah Demyan **Lucky Leaf 4-H Club** Huttonsville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Theodora Plumley

Deborah “Debbie” Demyan is the activities leader for the Lucky Leaf 4-H Club in Randolph County. Since 2000, she has devoted her life to the development of her children and the youth of Randolph County to be better citizens and stewards of the environment. With suggested projects from 4-H and the WVDEP Youth Environmental Program, the Lucky Leaf 4-H Club participates in the on-going beautification of Camp Pioneer in Randolph County; Adopt-A-Highway cleanups; WV Make It Shine stream bank trash pickups; Save Our Streams monitoring of the Tygart Valley River at the mouth of Becky’s Creek; and Adopt-A-Trail clearing of the Meatbox Run Trail at Kumbrabow State Forest. Pine seedlings planted at Kumbrabow now stand as tall as the volunteers. The group recycles various items, including ink cartridges. Through Debbie’s encouragement, members of the Lucky Leaf 4-H Club have attended WV Youth Environmental Day; State Conservation Camp; Junior Conservation Camp; and Youth Environmental Conferences. This is just part of how much Debbie is involved with her community and surrounding areas and why she clearly qualifies for a 2010 Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Louise Bennett **Cub Scout Pack 47** Waverly, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Nick Pahoundis

Louise Bennett has not only touched the lives of her two children, she has also influenced and inspired many individuals and youth throughout her community to take care of others and our environment. Louise joined the CEOS (Community Educational Outreach Service) in 1978, serving as family life chairman, on committees and as county president and vice president several times. She is now serving as president of the Valley Mills Club. Louise started Cub Scout Pack 47 and has been with the pack for 25 years. She has organized and maintained an active club, which regularly participates in community events. In the past years, Louise has encouraged and inspired numerous boys to earn Eagle Scout status. In 2002, her pack enrolled in the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s Youth Environmental Program and has received numerous environmental awards since. Their extensive efforts and activities benefit the environment, as well as educate youth and individuals throughout the community about the importance of caring for what we have been given. Louise and the pack participate in projects such as the Ohio River Sweep, Make it Shine Cleanups, recycling collection events, wildlife management and environmental education. Her pack also builds blue bird boxes and cleans them out every spring for the local landfill. Louise has made a great impact on the environment, participating in environmental activities, as well as motivating and instilling priceless environmental and personal values in the present and future caretakers of this planet.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Betty Hamilton Sandy Pals 4-H Club

Fellowsville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Brad Blaine

Betty Hamilton has been the Leader of the Sandy Pals 4-H Club since 1975, a natural progression since she has been involved in 4-H since her youth. She has encouraged club members to become involved in conservation activities since she went to the first organizational planning meeting by the Adopt-A-Highway program in 1988. There are usually 40 to 50 members in the club and she has always encouraged members to beautify their community, pick up litter along highways and clean a local stream area. For many years, club members put together blue bird boxes with lumber donated from a construction site. With Betty's help, members have planted a wildflower garden spot and prepared a flower bed at the local school. Betty has taken her talents for re-using items such as greeting cards, film canisters, detergent bottle lids, etc. for crafts into the classrooms, at club meetings and as gifts. Working with another conservation group, Betty went with her club to an abandoned mine site and planted trees. Betty and her husband Terry have often been chaperones, taking members to the Youth Conservation programs and other camps. Her club has been recycling for many years and this year members recycled 2,228 pounds of aluminum cans, 55 pounds of pop tabs, 24 car tires, 14 radiators, and 900 pounds of newspapers, ink cartridges, etc. Club members have adopted an abandoned cemetery and are keeping the area grass cut before each summer holiday and Betty is there to help.

DEP CABINET SECRETARY AWARD

Charles and Sue Pase

Kingwood, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Randy Huffman

Because of their longtime volunteer work in county and state cleanup initiatives and an unflinching dedication to their recycling business, Charles and Sue Pase are prime examples of what it takes to make a positive difference in West Virginia. Owners of Preston Tire & Recycling, the Pases are currently recycling close to 55,000 tires per year as they slowly but surely rebuild their business from a devastating fire in 2009. Preston Tire & Recycling shreds tires into rubber mulch, which is then sold and used for other purposes. Their business also removes wires from tires and sells the material to recyclers. In 2005, Preston Tire began collecting plastic bale wrap from hay, plastic shrink wrap and cardboard, all to be recycled. Nothing is buried on the property. Realizing there was a need to responsibly dispose of used tires, the Pases, in 1989, began researching the feasibility of tire recycling and started looking into products that could be derived from tires. They have been relentless, since, in their efforts to find markets for recycled tires and expand their business following the '09 fire that destroyed their operation. The Pases lost everything, including all of their equipment, in the fire, but because of their passion for what they do, are continuing to rebuild Preston Tire & Recycling. The Pases' commitment to keeping the state clean goes well beyond their business operations. In 1988, they began working with the state's Pollution Prevention and Open Dump Program (PPOD), cleaning up unsightly dumps throughout the state. At one point, the Pases began recycling metals from open dumps and later helped start a program called CARP (Car Appliance Recycling Program), where they collected space-eating metals from landfills. According to state and Preston County officials, the Pases are always willing to lend a hand and equipment to litter cleanup and tire collection projects in their area, no matter the time or day. In the past, they have donated rubber mulch to area schools, who use the material on playgrounds. "You can't beat his public service to the county," one official said.