



West Virginia YOUTH Environmental Program



Spring 2018

WV Department of Environmental Protection (www.dep.wv.gov)

Message from the director . . .

I hope you are looking forward to spring as much as I am! The season encourages our efforts to keep West Virginia beautiful by cleaning a park or stream, picking up litter, planting trees and flowers, or building a nature trail.

The Youth Environmental Program is promoting greener and



Annette Hoskins
YEP Director

stronger ideas. We have converted many of our applications and forms into fillable documents for electronic submittal. Additionally, the YEP Facebook page has been combined with the DEP Facebook page,

so like and follow our efforts at www.facebook.com/depwv. We look forward to posting your photos and videos on our Twitter and Facebook pages and using them in our paper brochures. You might be a star!

Speaking of change, please welcome our new District 1 coordinator, Shanti Amos, who began with the YEP on March 5. District 3 is currently vacant, but we hope to have someone in that spot soon.

Youth Environmental Day is Saturday, May 19 at North Bend State Park. Don't forget about the April 15

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Conference returns to capital

An advertising campaign not long ago urged visitors to plan a trip to "Hip, Historic ... Charleston, West Virginia."

YEP members who attend this year's Youth Environmental Conference will get a first-hand look at what all the fuss is about.

For the first time since 2007, the conference will be staged in West Virginia's capital city.

The Marriott Hotel in downtown Charleston, directly across the street from the Town Center Mall, will serve as the hub of activity from Oct. 12-14.

"We're extremely excited about bringing the conference to Charleston," said YEP Director Annette Hoskins. "I am hopeful our teenagers in the Youth Program and others will embrace this opportunity to visit our state's capital and take part in



The 2018 Youth Environmental Conference is heading back to West Virginia's capital city for the first time in over 10 years.

what surely will be, not only a great learning experience, but fun as well."

While definite plans have yet to emerge for the fall weekend, a wide range of options are being explored to provide conference goers with a first-class event.

New this year, anyone can attend the Youth Environmental Conference as long as they meet the age requirements, 13-18.

The cost to attend the conference is \$180. However, a limited number of scholarships to cover the full cost will be available.

Deadline extended for scholarship application

Because of school closings across the state, the deadline to submit applications for the YEP's college scholarship has been extended from April 15 to April 20. While mailed applications must be postmarked by April 20, electronic submissions will be accepted until April 23.

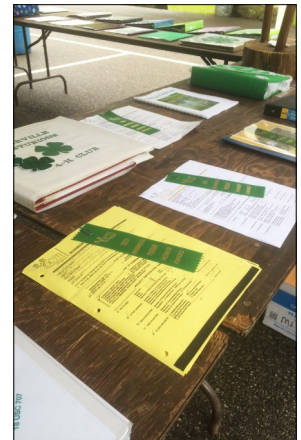
For more information about the Vecellio Memorial scholarship, visit the Youth Environmental Program page on the DEP web site at: www.dep.wv.gov.

Youth Day coming up fast

Youth Environmental Program groups attending 2018 Youth Day are asked to register by May 4.

This year's Youth Day is scheduled for May 19 at North Bend State Park in Ritchie County.

YEP award winners will be recognized, as well as the recipient of the 2018 Vecellio Memorial college scholarship. To register for Youth Day, go to www.dep.wv.gov and click on "Youth Environmental Program."



Find us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/depwv

YEP News

WV Youth Environmental Program
601 57th St. S.E., Charleston WV 25304

News from the YEP districts

District 1

Shanti Amos
District Coordinator



Hi, my name is Shanti Amos and I was recently hired as the YEP coordinator for District 1.

For over 10 years, my husband and I owned Amos Environmental Services (AES). AES specialized in water resource management, contract operations of treatment facilities, permit management, water sampling and various related services.

We have been active members of American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation for many years.

Giving back to my community has always been a priority. This will be the second year I am the co-chair of the North Central West Virginia Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Hospice is also an organization close to my heart. I have served as a volunteer for Hospice Care in Charleston and was previously employed by Southern

Care in Washington, Pa., as its Volunteer Coordinator.

I also serve on the Local School Improvement Council Committee, Academic Boosters, and Prom Committee for Bridgeport High School.

I am a graduate of Marshall University where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in communication studies.

I reside in Bridgeport with my husband of 22 years and our three children. Cole, 19, is a student at West Virginia University, majoring in exercise physiology.

Grace, 17, is a junior at Bridgeport High and Brock, 14, attends eighth grade at Bridgeport Middle School.

I'm excited to be joining WV DEP and look forward to meeting and working with each of you to further the mission of the Youth Environmental Program.

District 3

Callie Sams



HELLO District 3! This will be my last newsletter article for the Youth Environmental Program as I have accepted a position with the City of Buckhannon as Information Coordinator and Grant Writer. I started in this new role on Jan. 2 and have really been enjoying it.

I am really excited to be working on a project that was initiated by Buckhannon-Upshur High School student, Lindsay Bever. Lindsay organized a "Save the Bees" campaign through which she encouraged local government officials to plant wildflowers on vacant lots to provide habitat for wild pollinators and honey bees.

In response to her request, the City of Buckhannon planted wildflowers on vacant lots that are in the flood zone, and cannot be used for housing. The project was a huge success. City employees mowed paths through the wildflowers and community

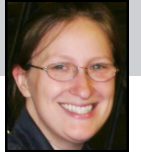
residents enjoyed walking them, while taking in views of the Buckhannon River. It was a win-win for pollinators and people! This year, the city will expand the program and I am writing a grant proposal to purchase more seeds.

Just like Lindsay, YOU have the power to make changes in your community. What could you do to make your neighborhood (or school, playground, park) a nicer place to live, both for people and wildlife? Who can you partner with to make your plan come true? Be persistent, keep a positive attitude and you may just see your vision become a part of your town's success story in the next edition of the local news.

I wish you all the best and hope you will look me up the next time you are in Buckhannon. I'm easy to find in city hall.

District 2

Harmony Dressler
District Coordinator



THIS spring there are several events that your group can participate in.

The Mineral County Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Network will host the sixth annual Mineral County STEM Festival at Potomac State College in Keyser on March 24 from noon to 4 p.m.

The festival will allow participants to experience hands-on learning at environmental stations on topics such as soil conservation, non-native invasive species, and forestry. Visit www.facebook.com/MineralCountySTEM for updates.

Discover Nature Day is scheduled for April 28 at Seneca Rocks Discovery Center in Seneca Rocks.

The day will start at 10 a.m. with a volunteer event to pull the invasive plant, garlic mustard, from the grounds of the Discovery Center.

Prizes will be awarded to the individuals who remove the most

and free lunch will be provided to all volunteers. From 1 to 4 p.m., booths and activities will be set up around the Discovery Center to show participants what nature has to offer. Visit www.facebook.com/PHCWPM for more information.

The 10th Annual Garlic Mustard Challenge (GMC) is being planned for 2018.

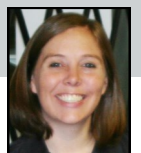
The GMC is a series of events open to volunteers who want to make an impact while spending time in the great outdoors.

Garlic Mustard is a non-native invasive species that infiltrates the habitat of our native species and quickly takes over. Volunteers will learn how to identify the plant and how to remove the weed, before helping to get rid of the invasive species.

Check www.phcwpma.org/garlicmustard for a full list of the planned events.

District 4

Sara Prior
District Coordinator



LAST spring, I celebrated Earth Day with 60 students from Scarbro Head Start in Fayette County. We started the lesson by discussing why we love our planet. Many children discussed their favorite outdoor activities, a couple of the students talked about fishing, and one even talked about gathering food from their garden. After the discussion, we put these thoughts on paper. Brown paper bags, to be exact.

The students decorated paper grocery bags that were donated by a local store. A letter was sent home with each student informing their parents that these bags would be used by the grocery store during Earth Week. The letter also included some helpful ideas on how they could celebrate Earth Week at home.

Sounds like a really cool idea, huh? Your group can help promote Earth Day 2018 by doing this exact same project. The pro-



ject is called, Earth Day Groceries Project. All the details are online at www.earthdaybags.org. It's a fun and easy project to do that has such a wonderful impact on the community.

District 5

Tom Aluise
District Coordinator



RENEE Simms' daughter was a 4-H club member but the group's meeting times just weren't convenient for the family.

"When I was growing up, there was a club in Dunbar," Simms said, referring to her home town in Kanawha County. "I didn't think there was any reason we couldn't have one again."

So, instead of finding another club for her daughter that fit better into the family's time structure, Simms started her own.

"I found some friends with kids to help me," she said.

This past September, the Dunbar Corn Club 4-Hers met for the first time. In November, the group joined the Youth Environmental Program.

"We have about 12 kids who are faithful coming to our meetings," Simms said. The oldest member is 13.

The club meets twice a month at the Dunbar Recreation Center



and has already made a positive impact on the community.

Before Christmas, members made crafts and visited a nursing home in Dunbar (see photo).

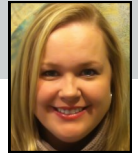
"We handed out the crafts to the residents, sang carols and read stories," Simms said.

At one of the club's meetings, local first responders visited and answered questions.

This spring, the group will be busy maintaining a public garden space, allotted by the city of Dunbar. The club will tend to the flowers for a year.

District 6

Nedia Cyran
District Coordinator



YOUTH Environmental Program members in District 6 have been very busy keeping our region beautiful, despite the very wet, cold and snowy weather we've experienced.

Many groups have used this time to learn more about recycling and to prepare for upcoming beautification projects in the spring.

Wood County's Lubeck Lucky Clovers 4-H Club is one of the groups that hasn't let the cold temperatures keep it from making West Virginia beautiful!

The group participates in the Adopt-A-Highway program, cleaning up a two-mile stretch on Route 68 in Wood County.

It also participates annually in the Make It Shine cleanups.

The Lucky Clovers cleaned up the school grounds at Lubeck Elementary School this past year and their plan is to clean up the same location again in April.

In addition to the Adopt-A-Highway program, Make It Shine Program and recycling programs,



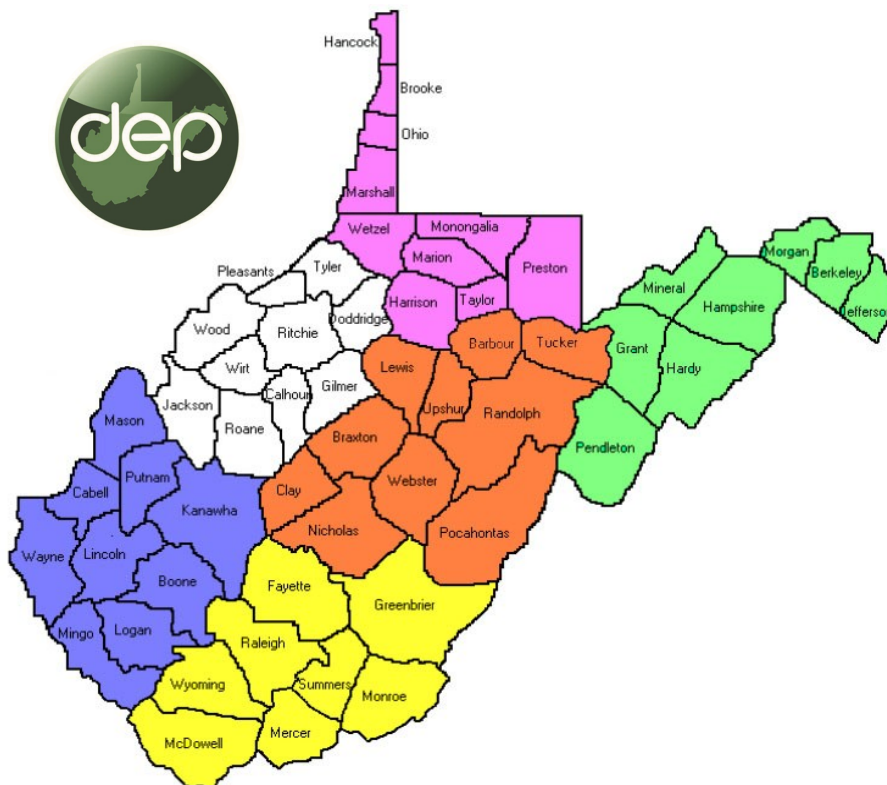
the group plans to host a beautification project this year at the local elementary school.

Its plans include removing rock, concrete and debris from the border around the playground.

The club will plant flowers and mulch the area after completion to make it more functional and beautiful.

Julie Barnes, 4-H club leader, is excited for the many projects in store for the Clovers this year.

Youth Program Coordinators



- District 1**

Shanti Amos
2301 Pleasant Valley Road, Fairmont, WV 26554
Phone: 304-368-3950 / Fax: 304-368-3953
shanti.m.amos@wv.gov
- District 2**

Harmony Dressler
22288 Northwestern Pike, Romney, WV 26757
Phone: 304-822-7266 / Fax: 304-822-3687
harmony.f.dressler@wv.gov
- District 3**

Vacant
47 School Street, Suite 301, Philippi, WV 26416
Phone: 304-457-3219 / Fax: 304-457-5613
- District 4**

Sara Prior
1159 Nick Rahall Greenway, Fayetteville, WV 25840
Phone: 304-574-4465 / Fax: 304-574-4480
sara.a.prior@wv.gov
- District 5**

Tom Aluise
601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, WV 25304
Phone: 304-926-0441 / Fax: 304-926-0458
thomas.j.aluise@wv.gov
- District 6**

Nedia Cyran
2311E Ohio Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26101
Phone: 304-420-4635 / Fax: 304-420-4554
nedia.s.cyran@wv.gov

Spotlight On.



Boy Scout Troop 32

Location: Hampshire County

Number of members: 4

Highlights: Boy Scout Troop 32 was presented with the 2017 Save Our Streams Award. This \$300 award is given to the youth group whose project meets the goals of the Save Our Streams Program. Those goals include increasing the state's ability to monitor the quality of its rivers and streams and enhancing public awareness of the need for their protection. The troop adopted a public access point on the South Branch of the Potomac River and cleans it regularly.

Calendar of Events

April 1-15 — West Virginia Make It Shine Statewide Cleanup.

April 15 — Youth Environmental Program project reports must be postmarked.

April 20 — Youth Environmental Program college scholarship applications must be postmarked.

April 28 — Adopt-A-Highway Spring Statewide Cleanup.

May 19 — Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park in Cairo, Ritchie County.

June 16 — Ohio River Sweep.

June 18-22 — State Junior Conservation Camp at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

August 4 — Adopt-A-Highway Appreciation Picnic, at Stonewall Resort..

Sept. 8 — Great Kanawha River Cleanup.

YEP groups post impressive numbers

Reports submitted every April by YEP-member clubs and schools give us at least a snapshot of the great work being done by West Virginia youth. And we know you're doing more!

If your club or school is involved with a project, take time to file a report with the YEP. Not only do we love hearing about your efforts, but by submitting a report, your club becomes eligible to win cash prizes. If you need help with your report, contact your district coordinator.

And remember, reports are due April 15.

YEP Recycling* (April 2016 to April 2017)

Material	Pounds
Steel	190,887
Paper	69,077
Aluminum	13,259
Plastic	9,614
Glass	3,799
Cardboard	2,189
Other items	Number
Plastic shopping bags	228,461
Pop tabs	142,171

YEP Litter Control*

Bags of trash collected	646
Miles of road cleaned	90
Communities/schools cleaned	56
Streams cleaned/monitored	16

* Statistics based on 45 filed reports

MESSAGE

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deadline to submit your reports!

This year at Youth Day, we will not have activities on Friday evening and all group leaders are asked to register on Saturday morning at the information booth. During registration, leaders will be asked to provide an approximate number of their group in attendance.

Also, by completing the survey located on the scavenger hunt cards, you will be eligible for door prizes.

Junior Conservation Camp is June 18-22 at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley, Jackson County.

The cost per camper is \$175. If you need help finding a scholarship, please contact me. A scholarship covers the entire cost of the five-day camp.

We always look forward to seeing our campers, both new and seasoned!

As always, the Youth Environmental Program enjoys developing our community interactions. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact me at:

Annette.L.Hoskins@wv.gov or 304-926-0499 ext. 1659.