

## CONGRATULATIONS

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's annual 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, a history that shows no outstanding violations and a record of compliance with regulatory authorities. Award winners 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.

### CLEAN ENERGY

#### **IGS CNG Services**

South Charleston, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Gene Coccari

West Virginia drivers now have more fueling options for their vehicles. On Jan. 28, 2014, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's goal to have three natural gas fueling stations, forming a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicle Corridor along Interstate 79, was met by the grand opening of the IGS CNG Services CNG fueling station in Charleston. The station will service the growing number of West Virginia businesses and residents who are converting to natural gas vehicles as a way to save money and use a clean, West Virginia fuel. The Charleston CNG fueling station is the second one constructed by IGS in the state, following the opening of its Bridgeport station in September. The third location is in Jane Lew. After organizing a Natural Gas Vehicle Task Force to transition the state's fleet to natural gas fuels in 2013, Gov. Tomblin said state government should convert at least one-fourth of its 7,800-vehicle fleet within four years. That effort has begun with the addition of 15 CNG-fueled pickups and five vans driven by WVDOT Division of Highways personnel.

As the vast Marcellus Shale gas deposit is tapped, the state has access to an abundance of natural gas. As an alternative transportation fuel, CNG emits up to 30 percent less carbon dioxide, up to 75 percent less carbon monoxide and up to 95 percent less particulate matter than gasoline or diesel. Companies, including Chesapeake Energy, Antero Resources and EQT Corporation, have committed to fuel their vehicles along the I-79 Corridor. With CNG stations in Charleston, Jane Lew and Bridgeport, one can drive all the way from Charleston to Pittsburgh on a clean, local resource that's less than \$2.50 a gallon.

### SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD

#### **Bluefield-Ada Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Bluefield, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Mike Puckett

The Bluefield Sanitary Board (BSB) Ada Treatment Plant has been serving the citizens of Bluefield since 1974. During this time, the plant has been upgraded twice, with the most recent renovations taking place in 2013. The current renovations have made a very effective treatment process a very efficient process. With the addition of variable speed blowers, fine bubble diffusers, and self-regulating UV disinfection systems, this plant has realized an average monthly power savings of 30 percent, or approximately \$25,000 annually.

Although the new equipment is critical to achieving and maintaining compliance with the facility's permits, it is the exceptional and dedicated staff at the Ada Treatment Plant that deserves much of the credit for this achievement. Through this team's commendable effort and commitment to excellence, the plant has not only consistently met the effluent limitations of its permits, but regularly exceeds the expectations of these water quality standards. Any accolades received serve as an acknowledgement of 40 years of excellence and as a testament to the diligent operation and maintenance performed by the facility's staff, which works 24/7/365 with little to no recognition from the public it serves. The staff's work ethic is evident to anyone who walks through the door to find the always clean and organized condition of the plant.

### SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD

#### **City of Beckley Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Beckley, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Lily Kay

The Beckley Sanitary Board's Piney Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant receives and treats wastewater from 8,900 customers in the Greater Beckley area. Last year, the plant treated 1.9 billion gallons of flow before discharging it within permit limits to Piney Creek, a significant tributary of the New River. While wastewater treatment to meet permit limits is the primary function of the facility, BSB and its employees have committed to become a leader in sustainability in southern West Virginia.

Improvements in operations and facility upgrades over the last two years have allowed BSB to reduce its energy consumption (kilowatt hours) per millions gallons treated by 4 percent. Additional energy-saving measures are being planned. The Board's utilization of Internet-connected weather forecasting and monitoring, equipment sensors and notification systems now allow staff to be more responsive to weather issues that may impact the plant. BSB's plant handles thousands of gallons of waste from Southern West Virginia, and handled waste from the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. The BSB consistently produces a quality bio-solid product that is recycled through its land application program on area hay fields.

## INDUSTRY LESS THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

### **Leslie Equipment**

Cowen, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Greg Morris

When John Leslie purchased the family business from his father and uncle nearly four decades ago, Leslie Equipment Company, then Leslie Brothers Equipment, was a small John Deere franchise in Cowen, West Virginia. It was used largely to supplement the family's sawmill business. Now, Leslie Equipment Company has dealerships all over West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio, and is one of the largest John Deere forestry and construction equipment dealers on the East Coast.

The nature of the equipment business is messy by necessity. A large issue with machinery is the oil and antifreeze that is burned. Leslie Equipment has made great strides over the years to eliminate wasting these by-products of equipment use. The used oil is reused as a source for heat in the winter and any excess used oil is sent to certified recycling plants. Used antifreeze is also sent to recycling plants as a responsible method of disposal. Each store location has wash bays where the run-off water is cleaned by a passive system prior to being disposed of in public sanitation plants. The soil in these wash bays is tested prior to being hauled. Leslie Equipment also takes pride in ensuring the future of each community it touches by supporting local schools and investing in the students.

## INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

### **Weyerhaeuser Co.**

Heaters, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Greg Morris

Weyerhaeuser is involved in nearly every facet of the forest products industry, from growing and harvesting trees to producing products that are fundamental to human needs. Weyerhaeuser is a leader in an industry whose activities rely on natural resources and established a company-wide environmental policy in 1971. The key components of this policy are to be responsible stewards of the environment by practicing sustainable forestry, setting and meeting goals to reduce pollution, conserving natural resources and energy, reducing waste, and continually improving environmental performance. To track performance and ensure the goals are being achieved, an ISO 14001 environmental management system (EMS) is used. The wood procurement system is included as a component of the EMS. Sutton Oriented Strand Board (OSB) is certified to the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The SFI program is a system of principles, objectives and performance measures that integrate the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with other forest benefits.

Since 1996, Sutton OSB has been a primary supporter of the Envirothon in West Virginia. In 2013, Sutton OSB continued to be a major contributor to the Envirothon both physically and financially. Sutton OSB also sponsored a camper scholarship for the DEP's Junior Conservation Camp in 2013. Sutton OSB remains very supportive of youth development in Braxton and surrounding counties through both financial support and Weyerhaeuser.

At Weyerhaeuser, innovation is a key part of continuous improvement. Some of the innovative solutions recently implemented at Sutton OSB include upgrading plant lighting with modern technologies and adding occupancy sensors for improved energy efficiency.

## MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

### **Raleigh County Landfill-Raleigh County SWA**

Beckley, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Lily Kay

The Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority's landfill is located in Beckley and currently has 279 permitted acres, including 88 acres of disposal area. Currently a new 7.3-acre cell, Cell 8, is being constructed and is almost complete. Cell 8 will provide five years of airspace. The site is a Class A landfill and has a monthly tonnage limit of 13,750 tons.

Cell 8 subgrade, clay placement, and protective cover stone placement was accomplished by RCSWA personnel using RCSWA equipment. The overall in-house construction savings was estimated to be in excess of \$4 million. The RCSWA takes great pride in its facility and its employees. The landfill accepts waste from Raleigh, Fayette, Wyoming, Summers and Nicholas counties.

The RCSWA is currently operating an active landfill gas system and is in negotiations for a waste-to-energy project using a generator to produce electricity to be sold back onto the power grid. The landfill currently is operating 20 extraction wells and is destroying 750 to 800 standard cubic feet of landfill gas per minute. The RCSWA works diligently to provide customers a pleasant experience to dispose of waste and a facility that all West Virginians can be proud of.

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### **The Highland School Hawks**

Ellenboro, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Nick Pahoundis

Members of The Highland School, a democratic boarding school located in Ritchie County, have been interested in conservation education for many years. The Highland School Hawks Conservation Club was formed in 1987 and participated in its first Youth Environmental Day in May 1988. The Hawks currently have 14 active members. Educational outreach has been the Highland Hawks' primary focus since the club's formation. Club members hold weekly meetings to discuss environmental issues, the importance of cleaning up local streams and roads, wildlife identification, and many other conservation topics. A big part of the club's educational program is reaching out to students, families, and the local community with information about conservation needs, including watershed protection and preventing forest fires. After learning about environmental needs in the local community, the Highland Hawks got actively involved in new projects.

The Hawks built and maintain a community roadside park and nature trail with signs to identify trees. They participate in Adopt-A-Highway, annual stream clean-ups, wildlife management, litter patrols, beautification projects, and North Bend State Park work. Every week, club members

collect community recyclables and take them to the Ritchie County Recycling Center. Individual club members create art projects highlighting environmental education for Youth Environmental Day and club representatives share club projects at the Youth Environmental Conference each fall. The club has won many awards over the years including three Mountain State Awards of Excellence. The Highland School Hawks Conservation Club is committed to conserving our resources and educating our community about environmental needs.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
**Mark Bollinger, National Park Service**

Glen Jean, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Kim Maxwell

For nearly 30 years, Mark Bollinger has worked for the National Park Service, serving 20 years at the New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area, and Bluestone National Scenic River. As the education specialist for the park, Ranger Mark impacts thousands of local students across a five-county region annually, coordinating 818 presentations for 18,378 students during the 2013 school year alone. These programs reach kindergarten through high school aged students. He developed the park's middle school water resources program that teaches students how their communities are connected to the watershed, and responsible actions they can take to protect the water resources. He also created the park's Rangers-In-Training Program that served more than 350 local high school students who participated in fun, recreation-based adventures while learning about the park resources and career opportunities.

While Mark is entirely dedicated to his work of connecting youth to the outdoors and accomplishes amazing things through his incredible work ethic, he also recognizes the value of partnerships to provide experiences for local youth. He partners with WVDEP, WVDNR, Corps of Engineers, Lower Greenbrier Watershed Association, Piney Creek Watershed Association, and others to provide water festivals in various locations across the state and to provide a variety of environmental education programs for students of all ages. Mark continues to create new programs, most recently collaborating with partners and teachers to present a new program entitled SYNC, Science Youth and Nature Camp where participants engaged in learning through programs related to Project WET, Project Learning Tree, and Project Wild.

Mark is a phenomenal teacher, who infuses his work with passion and joy. He has done immeasurable good in this world for both children and the environment.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
**Davis Creek Watershed Association**

Charleston, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

The Davis Creek Watershed Association (DCWA) was founded in 1995 and incorporated in 1996 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. DCWA's goal is to protect and improve the environmental quality of the Davis Creek Watershed through community action, education and outreach, and cooperative efforts with landowners, businesses, and governmental agencies. Following its goal, DCWA annually participates in the Make It Shine program, collecting over 271 tons of trash and over 2,228 tires out of the Davis Creek Watershed; it keeps its members up to date on Davis Creek projects by publishing and distributing a quarterly newsletter; and it samples annually on the creek and recently deployed data loggers.

DCWA is working in partnership with Green Rivers and DEP to initiate the Lower Davis Creek Restoration Project by going door to door within its community to get permission from landowners to access the creek. On Sept. 27, DCWA is planning its first large community outreach event. This event will showcase the restoration project, project WET activities, nature walks along Davis Creek, a rain barrel raffle, and educational talks on the birds, fish, bugs, and plants that live in the Davis Creek Watershed.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
**Girl Scouts Black Diamond Council**

Charleston, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Ashley Hicks

An appreciation for the natural world and the need to care for Planet Earth has been at the core of Girl Scouting since it was founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience comes to life for girls and the adults in the Journey programs. The leadership keys of Discover, Connect, and Take Action, along with the Girl Scout processes of Girl Led, Cooperative Learning, and Learning by Doing, are woven through each journey.

Girls are being exposed to ideas and discussions on the environment every day and everywhere. Girl Scouts journeys are packed with the latest research and girl-relevant environmental thinking and offer adults a way to interact with girls on topics of great importance in their lives. In this journey series, girls at each grade level have an opportunity to learn about grade-appropriate environmental issues such as clean water and air, noise pollution, global warming, soil contamination, and agricultural processes.

In each grade level, girls use the Girl Scout Journeys Program to learn about the environment and the world around them through a fun and educational series of books. Camping is a vital part of Girl Scouts and hundreds of girls each year are taught to leave no trace behind as they take part in a variety of outdoor activities.

SAFE DAMS  
**WVDNR-Berwind Lake Dam**

South Charleston, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Brian Long

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources' Parks Division is commended for correcting serious dam safety deficiencies at the Berwind Lake Dam in McDowell County. Although funding for capital improvements is a persistent challenge, the Legislature and WVDNR committed necessary funds for critical design and construction improvements.

The Division of Parks continues to build upon previous dam safety efforts to protect park visitors and the public from the possibility of dam failure.

Berwind Lake Dam is located upstream of Warriormine in the Berwind Lake Wildlife Management Area. The dam is owned and operated by the state Division of Parks and Recreation. The dam is an earth structure constructed in 1959 and is used for recreation purposes. Deficiencies with the embankment triggered temporary repairs in 1982. Construction completed in 2012 included installation of roller compacted concrete to protect the crest and slopes from overtopping erosion, slip-lining/extending the principal spillway pipe, and improvements to the emergency spillway channel.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP  
**West Virginia Recycling Services**

Charleston, W.Va.

West Virginia Recycling Services, LLC was established to revive recycling and grow residential and commercial recycling in Kanawha County, as well as the adjacent counties. Recycling momentum was lost when the Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority effectively closed the facility in March, 2012.

Early last year, improvements to the facility included taking a railroad right-of-way and improving it with gravel, making this a new entrance for all commercial truck traffic, which alleviated traffic where residents drop off material; expanding the drop off site to 24/7/365 and including glass bottles at the drop off site; accepting all of the cities' recyclables in lieu of trucks hauling material to Beckley; accepting e-waste at the facility; installing new truck scale; doing a weekly pick-up of recycling materials at many schools; and recycling over 3 million PET water bottles during the January 2014 water crisis.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP  
**Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority**

Charleston, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Ashley Hicks

The Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority (KCSWA) has gone through a drastic transition over the past year. The agency has put a focus on increasing awareness of recycling and creating more educated citizens in the county. 2013 has been a very productive year and the future looks even brighter for 2014.

With public education as the centerpiece of the agency's mission, several new initiatives and programs were started by the KCSWA. One of the first items on the agenda was to rebrand the agency and build a modern and functional website. The authority knew it was important to be active in the community in as many ways as possible and has regularly participated in public events and speaking engagements.

Other programs of the agency include: a free public event-recycling program called Lend-a-Bin; a recycling ambassador program; a pilot program for recycling in county schools; and the agency received grants to create educational material and to hold home composting workshops.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR  
**Col. Rowan Post 2345 VFW and Auxiliary**

Tunnelton, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Brad Blaine

Since the inception of the West Virginia Adopt-A-Highway program in 1989, the members of the Col. Rowan Post 2345 VFW and Auxiliary of Tunnelton have continuously worked in the scenic improvement of their adopted section of Route 26 in Preston County. Their efforts over the years have not only removed thousands of pounds of unsightly highway litter, but in doing so, promoted the health of the local environment.

Roadside litter is diverted from its assimilation into the local watershed and the aquatic and terrestrial organisms that depend on it. These Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and the hundreds of hours they have spent on their adopted section serve as a visual and engaging reminder to others that they truly care about their community – giving passersby pause and thought to the local environment. Since the Col. Rowan Post 2345 VFW and Auxiliary volunteers participated in their first cleanup of Route 26, they have collected over thousands of bags of highway litter. Dozens of bags of litter were collected again last year. But compared to the early 1990's when they collected over one hundred bags of roadside litter in a single year, it proves that their efforts are making a difference and travelers are taking notice. No other Adopt-A-Highway group in the northern West Virginia has recorded as many collected bags of highway litter as the members of the Col. Rowan Post 2345 VFW and Auxiliary. Their accomplishments reflect well upon themselves, their community, the Adopt-A-Highway Program and the great state of West Virginia.

OUTSTANDING LITTER CONTROL OFFICER  
**Jimmy Stone-Raleigh County SWA**

Beckley, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Lily Kay

On July 1, 2004 the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority hired Litter Officer Jimmy Stone. He was the first litter officer in Raleigh County. He was assigned four full-time litter employees and since his hiring, has filed 752 criminal charges in Magistrate Court and issued 1,568 Notices of Violation. Jimmy's litter crew has cleaned 2,275 miles of roadway, cleaned up 564 open dumps and disposed of 1,112 tons of refuse to the Raleigh

County landfill. He takes great pride in keeping Raleigh County clean and worked with the DEP in creating the on-line test for West Virginia litter officers. Jimmy also continues his in-service training to maintain his law enforcement certification. His commitment and hard work to keeping Raleigh County clean was instrumental during the Boy Scout Jamboree. He ensured the Raleigh County entrance was kept clean, patrolling the area daily, and picking up litter himself to keep the area clean.

OUTSTANDING LITTER CONTROL OFFICER  
**James Miller-Wyoming County SWA**

Pineville, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Lily Kay

James Miller became part of the Wyoming County team in June of 2012. James quickly made himself an invaluable asset to the county and its litter program.

Ever vigilant, James issues approximately 150 litter tickets per year. In addition to tirelessly fighting litter, James also volunteers for Wyoming County's annual tire and metal drive and is secretary for the Wyoming County Abandoned Building Enforcement Agency, which has been very successful in the last two years. James leads by example and has helped the Department of Environmental Protection clean up various dump sites throughout Wyoming County. James is passionate about making Wyoming County a cleaner and safer place to live, work and play.

Though his stature may be intimidating, under that tough façade is a heart of gold. James is always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need and is considered a trusted confidant and friend to his fellow colleagues. Wyoming County is very fortunate to have James Miller, a litter officer with an exemplary work ethic, as well as character.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP  
**Friends of the Hughes River Watershed Association**

Harrisville, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

Just over a year old, Friends of the Hughes River Watershed Association (FOH) has been getting both feet wet in Ritchie County. The association has applied for a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has been incorporated in West Virginia since December of 2013. Since its first meeting in April of 2013, FOH has hosted several sampling workshops to educate volunteers on how to sample their section of the Hughes River and its tributaries for pollutants. Monitoring the tributaries and the rivers of the Hughes will enable FOH to locate possible problem areas to investigate and involve the proper governmental agencies and community in locating problem sources. This monitoring program will also allow FOH to track the health of the Hughes River for the community of the watershed.

Partnerships have already been formed with Trout Unlimited, WV Save Our Streams, Project Water Education for Teachers, Three Rivers, WV DEP, and the West Virginia Water Research Institute. FOH volunteers will be educating the youth with WV SOS and Project WET activities at outreach events at North Bend State Park over the summer. FOH currently has 11 locations that are sampled monthly following DEP protocols, four data loggers deployed, and hosted a West Virginia and Virginia Water Quality Monitoring Program Training this year. Additionally, FOH members partner with North Bend State Park for their stream cleanup, removing over one ton of solid waste from their watershed. They are well on their way as environmental stewards for their community.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP  
**Braxton County SWA-Town of Sutton**

Sutton, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Callie Sams

The Braxton County Solid Waste Authority and the Town of Sutton have been working diligently to clean up Braxton County, increase recycling, educate citizens, and enhance recreational opportunities on the Elk River.

The new Braxton County SWA has revitalized the organization, increasing recycling and starting a school recycling program. It has also created an educational exhibit and a brochure that lists all the recycling opportunities in the county for distribution. The Braxton SWA hosted a very successful eCycle event in 2013.

The Town of Sutton has been involved in many initiatives to revitalize the town and improve the environment for all residents, human and wildlife. The Town of Sutton has a curbside recycling program and started the county-wide school recycling effort at Sutton Elementary School. It has also participated in the statewide Make It Shine cleanup for many years, hosting a citywide cleanup and even providing a barbeque for the volunteers. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosts a Make It Shine cleanup at Sutton Lake every spring. Working together, the Town of Sutton and Braxton County Solid Waste Authority have greatly improved the environment for residents, visitors, and wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP  
**Raleigh County SWA-Recycling and Education Center**

Beckley, W.Va.  
DEP Sponsor: Lily Kay

In 2004 the RCSWA opened a state of the art, 24,000-square-foot recycling facility with an elevated sort line and a belt-fed baler capable of bailing plastic, paper, newsprint, cardboard, metal and aluminum cans. The facility handles all City of Beckley curbside recycling, Raleigh County

schools recycling, and boxes at drop-off points located throughout the county for residents to utilize. These boxes allow residents without recycling pickup service the ability to recycle and Go Green. The facility also handles electronics recyclables. The facility houses an Education Center for tours so the public can learn more about recycling and its importance to saving landfill airspace. The facility has recycled over a million pounds of material in one month.

The facility assisted the Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority in its recycling efforts during the closing of the Slack Street location. It also worked with the leaders of the Boy Scouts during the Jamboree to facilitate their recycling and ensure they were successful. This year, the facility added a new 2-ram baler to be used in tandem with its current baler and to meet the growing needs of recycling in the future. The RCSWA makes every effort to be prepared for the challenges of its citizens in Raleigh County concerning recycling.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### **Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority**

Pineville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Lily Kay

The Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority serves all 500 square miles of Wyoming County. With very limited resources and having only a volunteer board, its proactive members go above and beyond, even taking calls at home from concerned citizens. Through the dedicated leadership of Chairman Ray Farmer, the Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority is bringing positive change to communities throughout Wyoming County.

The Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority has been an integral part in bringing recycling education to the youth of Wyoming County. In addition to an ad campaign, the Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority has helped implement recycling programs in local schools, which now encompasses all 14 schools in the county.

The Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority employs two full-time litter officers, James Miller and John Brooks, who can be found daily with Community Service clients, helping make the county a cleaner place to live. Most of the Solid Waste Board Members also are volunteers on various other committees, including the Wyoming County Abandoned Building Enforcement Agency and Reaching the Summit Community Service Projects. The Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority also actively participates every year in the Make It Shine Program, the Annual Tire and Metal Drive and in open dump clean-ups throughout the county.

#### CABINET SECRETARY AWARD

### **Morris Creek Watershed Association**

Montgomery, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

In the early fall of 2001, several grass-root citizens from both Fayette and Kanawha county organized to “build a better tomorrow for today...one drop at a time,” by restoring Morris Creek to its previous pristine headwater condition. On March 21, 2002, the Morris Creek Watershed Association, Inc. (MCWA) was officially formed and consisted of four officers, 22 directors, and a total of about 45 members. In the first couple of years, the volunteer group focused on litter cleanups and stream monitoring to gain community interest and responsibility.

With the help of numerous partners, MCWA utilized approximately \$2 million within the watershed to treat acid mine drainage (AMD), build in-stream structures, remove litter from the stream, stabilize streambanks, and host education outreach events. The result has led to a significant difference on how the community views the watershed and the surrounding environment. To date, MCWA has removed 178.2 tons of solid waste, partially remediated four AMD sites, completed two phases of streambank stabilization projects, planted over 2,000 trees (including 200 native chestnuts), reintroduced three species of trout to Morris Creek, and constructed five K-dams to increase cover and habitat for the aquatic life.

The watershed’s true passion lies with education and outreach. Currently, MCWA provides community service opportunities for groups such as the Boy Scouts and Americorp. MCWA hosts water festivals, Energy Tours, Stream Mechanics workshops, educational tours of their AMD sites and treatments, Project WET and Save Our Streams workshops – to name a few. MCWA hopes to one day build an education facility to create awareness on AMD and educate the public on how a community can reclaim its watershed and “build a better tomorrow for today... one drop at a time.”