

DEP increasing presence on

Agency is getting its message out in more ways

By Stephanie Ferrell

Let's face it. Facebook is the "happening" social networking site on the Internet. The newest member of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection family to create a Facebook page is the Division of Water and Waste



Management's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program.

The DEP's Youth **Environmental Program** also has a Facebook page and the agency recently established a channel on YouTube to highlight its own videos.

YouTube is a tool we can use to give the public some idea of the things we do here at the



DEP," said agency videographer Mike Huff. The NPS Program Facebook page will be used to communicate

important water-related information and to network with watershed associations and other related groups.

Facebook is important to the NPS Program because it will improve public access to the program; provide a common networking place for watershed associations and other organizations to connect; allow regular postings with information and updates on all things concerning nonpoint source pollution; and

See WEB, Page 8

Boy Scouts camp reaching out to West Virginia state agencies

By Tom Aluise

Know something about orienteering?

How about hiking, geocaching, bird watching, nature photography or landscape painting?

The Boy Scouts of America are looking for volunteers to complement their staff for the National Scout Jamboree. The 10-day event, which is expected to draw close to 70,000 Scouts, volunteers and visitors, is scheduled for July 2013 at the Summit adventure activities, but Bechtel Reserve. currently under construction in Fayette

Clark Guy, who serves on the Scouts' National Conservation Committee, said Scouts participating in the Jamboree will have the opportunity not only to enjoy the area's numerous high-



West Virginia state agencies will be offered exhibition space during the 2013 National Scouts Jamboree in Fayette County.

also to sign up for various skill-development programs, such as those mentioned above.

Guy is hoping federal and state agencies, such as the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, will play an active role in providing volunteers who, through their expertise, will

contribute to the success of the Jamboree's programs.

"We want help from the agencies on these programs," Guy said. "We would certainly appreciate the agencies' participation and support and we can use their experience.'

Supplying volunteers

See CAMP, Page 3

Agency sponsoring Xmas tree recycling

The Department of Environmental Protection will conduct its seventh annual Christmas Tree recycling event next month.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Jan. 7 at the Capitol Market in Charleston, REAP staff will collect used live trees.

Recycled trees are dropped by the DNR into the bottom of lakes across West Virginia to improve fish habitat.

Last year, more than 800 trees were collected. Those who donate trees will receive a free gift and are eligible to win prizes.

December 2011

Putting West Virginia first

ast month, I had the distinct honor of taking the oath of office, becoming the 35th Governor of our Great State. Each and every day, I will honor your trust and build upon the privilege of being your Governor.

On the campaign trail, hundreds of volunteers united with me. pursuing a single expectation, and that was for a better West Virginia.

I now ask that you apply that same zest and effort to public service, so that we may bring our goals to reality.

When I started working as your Governor, I focused on creating jobs, lowering taxes, and moving West Virginia forward. Today, my priorities remain clear and steadfast and are guided with one principle: put West Virginia first.

As a public servant for the past 37 years, I have worked with outstanding leadership from around the state.



Message from Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin

Together we made some tough choices, during some difficult times, and now those decisions are paying the dividends. I will continue leading with the knowledge that my decisions today will impact this great state for years to come.

Together we have worked hard to balance the budget, maintain a healthy Rainy Day Fund, and enjoy economic growth during a national recession.

I will continue to put West Virginia first with every decision I make to ensure that it becomes an even better place to call home.

Still, there is more work to be done.

For many reasons, we can be proud.

Our unemployment rate is below the national average. We have attracted national companies like Macy's and Amazon.

We have a strong energy sector with growing opportunities for coal and natural gas. And, I will continue to work hard to attract more business investment.

While I will do my best to showcase West Virginia's attributes, I ask that you, our citizens, reach for higher

We have a work force that is second to none. But we need this and future generations to embrace the opportunities before them, furthering their education and learning new skill sets.

Whether it is through a traditional four-year university, a community college or a technical school, completing some form of postsecondary

education is crucial for success. Projections indicate that 60 percent of all jobs available within the next decade will require postsecondary credentials.

Earlier this year, West Virginia was one of eight states to host a statewide "College Application and Exploration Week" designed to encourage more students to explore their education options.

It was encouraging that 65 high schools and four YMCAs participated in the week's activities and I hope the events inspired our young people to set attainable education goals.

I have and will continue to bring people together to determine how best to proceed for the betterment of all West Virginians. My door is open to new ideas, new technology, and new ways to advance our state.

I hope you join me and share your thoughts so we can, together, put West Virginia first.

Recycling grants awarded



Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman awarded grants worth \$1.55 million to 39 recipients through the DEP's REAP Recycling Assistance Grants Program. The cabinet secretary presented the 2012 grants during a November ceremony at the DEP's Charleston headquarters. Grants were awarded to state solid waste authorities, county commissions, municipalities, private industries and nonprofit organizations. Pictured above is the cabinet secretary, along with REAP $\stackrel{-}{\text{Chief}}$ Danny Haught (far right) and representatives from Pipestem Resort State Park Superintendent David Caplinger and Edna Sweeney-McKeown. Pipestem received a \$20,000 grant to purchase recycling receptables.



Earl Ray Tomblin Governor

Randy Huffman Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco

Communications

Director

Tom Aluise

Editor

Public Information Office 601 57th St. S.E.

Charleston, WV 25304

Email: Kathy.Cosco@wv.gov;

Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov

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

Partnering to protect



State HAP liaison Ed Hamrick, second from left, accompanies DNR personnel on a fish shocking trip along Shavers Fork in Randolph County as part of a HAP project.

Cooperation key to success of Highlands Action Program

By Tom Aluise

rom establishing water trails on West Virginia rivers, to eliminating acid mine drainage and improving low-water fish passage on state streams, the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program (HAP) is making a difference in the Mountain State.

HAP was launched in 2005 through a Congressional appropriation that enabled the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to partner with four states in the Mid-Atlantic Region — Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia — in an effort to create jobs and improve the states' economies through local ecological restoration and protection activities.

"Congress saw the unique and diverse natural resources we had in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands and the environmental challenges we faced, so it created a program to try and address some of that," said Ed Hamrick, West Virginia's HAP liaison. Hamrick also works as an executive assistant to DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman.

Each HAP state has a liaison who is paid, in part, by the EPA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The liaison is a key player in HAP's success. Liaisons are tasked with selecting projects that have the best chance of completion and then bringing together the diverse public and private funding sources needed to pay for the work.

"To get things done," Hamrick said, "the liaison is asked to cross intergovernmental lines on both the federal and state level and to form partnerships that include government agencies and the private sector. A lot of times, that means pooling resources and sharing resources."

One HAP initiative, the recently completed Abram Creek Stream Restoration Project in Grant and Mineral counties, eliminated the largest contributor of acid mine drainage from West Virginia into the north branch of the Potomac River/ Chesapeake Bay.

State agencies, such as the DEP, Division of Natural Resources and Division of Highways partnered with federal and private sources, as well as the State of Maryland, on the \$850,000 Abram Creek project.

"If you really stop and think about it, it can be a daunting task, bringing together all of the different entities, getting them to buy into a project and then getting them to make a commitment of resources to the project," Hamrick said.

"I think the key is selecting a project that is needed and that everyone can buy into. That's the first step."

Hamrick selects HAP projects with the help of an advisory group that meets once a year.

Members of the group include: Jenny Newland, Canaan Valley Institute director; Bryan Moore, vice president for the Trout Unlimited Volunteer and Watershed programs; Paul Kinder, research scientist at WVU; Bernie Dowler, former chief of

See SUCCESS, Page 4

CAMP

Continued from Page 1

isn't the only way agencies, such as the DEP, can become involved with the Jamboree.

Included on site will be a Summit Center, an area available to both Scouts and visitors and the first stop on the Jamboree property.

The Summit Center will feature exhibition space for agencies to both spread their message and interact with Scouts and other Jamboree participants.

All exhibition spaces will be provided water and electricity, as well as one 20-by-30 foot tent. Additional tents and equipment must be brought by the agency using the space.

A fee of \$650 is required to rent exhibition space for seven of the Jamboree's 10 days.

The 10,600-acre Bechtel Reserve will serve not only as the permanent home for the Boy Scouts' Jamboree, scheduled every three years, but will also become the Scouts' fourth national highadventure base camp, featuring activities such as mountain biking. rock climbing, zip line tours and white water rafting.

"This is not an area that is new to the Boy Scouts," said David Kopsa, assistant manager of programs for the Jamboree.

"We are very familiar with the beauty of West Virginia.

"Many Scouts have been saying for years that we should be coming here."

DEP staff uses conference to 'connect'

By Tom Aluise

Close to 250 people attended this year's state Educational Conference on Litter Control and Solid Waste Management at Glade Springs Resort, near Beckley.

The event is sponsored by the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) program and the Association of West Virginia Solid Waste Authorities.

In addition to county solid waste and REAP officials, the conference attracted representatives from the state Public Service Commission and the Division of Highways; county commissions; city and town governments; watershed associations; family resource networks; and planning and development councils.



DEP Communications Chief Kathy Cosco leads a session on effectively working with the media.

For REAP staff, the conference provides an annual opportunity not only for education.

It also enables them to reach out on a face-toface level with solid waste officials from around the state whom they deal with on a daily basis in awarding grants and organizing cleanups.

"The conference puts

us all together," said the DEP's Sandy Rogers, who coordinates the various REAP grant programs. "It's a good time to network, meet people one-on-one and answer their questions.

"It is our biggest time to connect."

This year's conference ran from Nov. 6-8 and keynote speakers included DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman and U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall. Among the topics for educational sessions were the proper procedures for conducting public meetings; the problems associated with improper disposal of medications; tips on putting together a successful grant application; and how to work effectively with the media.

One panel discussion dealt with how the Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling boom might affect the solid waste industry.

"It's the only time we can all get together, voice our concerns and get some professional training," Rogers said.

"It's a starting point for a lot of people. They learn where they can go to get more information."

SUCCESS

Continued from Page 3

Wildlife Resources for DNR; Dave Arnold, former state Tourism Commission chairman; Steve Brown, Stream Restoration and Habitat Enhancement program manager for DNR; and Dennis Stottlemyer, who works for the DEP Environmental Advocate.

"Historically, I've taken a list of projects to them," Hamrick said. "We discuss them at our meeting and decide as a group.

"We communicate regularly with the EPA to talk about projects and other HAP initiatives. So, I not only get feedback from the advisory group, but also advice from the other HAP liaisons and the EPA. We try to pick projects that have not only environmental value, but also have a lot of educational value for the future — we learn from the project and apply what we learn on a greater scale later.'

In addition to the Abram Creek project,



State HAP liaison Ed Hamrick, above, is working with several groups to finalize the Elk River Water Trail.

other HAP initiatives in West Virginia include the establishment of water trails on both the Coal and Elk rivers and the \$500,000 Upper Shavers' Brook Trout Project in Randolph County, where more than a mile of fishery restoration is in the works.

For Hamrick, a former DNR director, the job as HAP liaison is a good fit.

"I've been in government for 25 years and I've worked with most of the state agencies," he said. "I have knowledge of the programs and the people who run them.

"You have a person who can cross lines and keep folks together moving toward a common objective."

Said the advisory group's Dowler:

"Ed has been successful in bringing together and utilizing the experience and knowledge of key folks from resource agencies and the private sector to leverage critical funding.

"West Virginia's HAP program has been a

success in the Mid-Atlantic Region both in competition for scarce funds and the alwaysdifficult task of getting the various players pulling together for a common cause."

Those partnerships, the advisory group's Arnold said, are what he loves about HAP.

"We are the seed money, the spark that creates something with, hopefully, long-term benefits," Arnold said, pointing to the massive Boy Scouts Adventure Center that is being built in Fayette County as an example.

The Boy Scouts will stage their national Jamboree at the center in 2013.

Both Arnold and Hamrick served on the Project Arrow Task Force that worked to get the Scouts to West Virginia.

"Talk to anyone on that team and they will tell you it was one of the best examples of people working together they have ever been involved with," Arnold said. "Again, that is what HAP does."

Watershed groups get together

By Tom Aluise

Natural gas drilling into the Marcellus Shale was the theme of this year's Watershed Celebration Day, sponsored in part by the DEP.

In addition to honoring watershed groups from around the state at Jackson's Mill in Weston, the 13th annual Celebration Day included an educational tour of a Chesapeake Energy drilling site, as well as a film festival and panel discussion on water issues associated with Marcellus drilling.

"We chose this topic because watershed associations were very much interested in getting more information," said Jennifer Pauer, one of the Celebration Day's organizers. Pauer is the DEP's program manager for Watershed Restoration.

On Nov. 5, more

than 100 watershed volunteers turned out to recognize their peers from around West Virginia who work diligently to protect and restore local watersheds.

The West Virginia Watershed Network honored 14 volunteer groups for their hard work and commitment to preserving and restoring streams and educating their communities about the importance of watershed protection.

Two groups received the Watershed Network's highest honor.

The Coal River Group and the Friends of Deckers Creek were named 2011 Watershed Associations of the Year. Both groups were repeat winners.

The Watershed Network includes representatives from the DEP, the National Parks Service, the U.S. Office of Surface



The Coal River Group won its second Watershed Association of the Year Award from the Watershed Network.

Mining, the state Conservation Agency and Canaan Valley Institute.

The Network strives to support the efforts and provide the necessary resources for local residents to successfully manage their resources.

Martin Christ and Pamela Engelmann represent the award-winning Friends of Deckers Creek group.



'DEP on the Move' toward wellness

By Colleen O'Neill

Most people walk everyday.
The Department of
Environmental Protection took
this common function and turned
it into a walking Wellness
program that began during the
heat of this summer and wrapped
up amid the cool breezes of fall.

"DEP on the Move" attracted 37 teams and 112 employees.

"I'm always thinking about what new Wellness program we can do," said DEP Wellness Coordinator Teresa Weaver.

"The neat thing about walking is that most of us do it everyday anyway," Weaver said. "The idea behind this program was to get people moving."

"DEP on the Move" allotted points for the number of steps taken. Points also could be obtained for timely reporting, largest increases in average steps, and quizzes.

"We had a good amount of participation," Weaver said. "Besides the Charleston headquarters, the Fairmont,



Logan, Oak Hill, Philippi, Welch, and Wheeling offices participated. It was a successful program."

The winning team, which finished with 85 points, divided up a \$100 grand prize.

The winning team was from the Charleston office.

Called the Holy Walk-A-Molies, it included Sheri Richardson, Debbie Pickens, Kim Akers, and B.J. Chestnut.

Other prizes were awarded as

well. They were based solely on weekly step averages of the combined team.

The first-place team (briefcase/laptop cases) was the Holy Walk-A-Molies.

The second-place team (stainless steel water bottles) was the Walking Misfits from the Charleston office. Members included Sandy Kee, Judy Smith, David Kersey, and Angela Garner.

The third-place team (keychains) was the Airheads from the Charleston office. Members included Theresa Adkins, Gene Coccari, Dee Smith, and Stephanie Hammonds.

Weaver said the DEP Wellness Program is planning a new weight loss program, tentatively scheduled to begin in January.

Modeled after a popular weight loss/lifestyle change program, this program will have weekly weigh-ins, offer helpful diet plans, and lend the moral support of other co-workers who are struggling with this common problem.

Stay tuned.



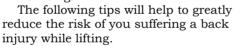
Decoration day

Getting into the holiday spirit, DEP staffers put the finishing touches on the agency's tree in the lobby of headquarters. From left are, June Casto, Jamie Adkins, Kenna DeRaimo (behind Adkins) and Toni Miller.

Take that load off your back

Improper lifting techniques contribute to many unnecessary back strains and injuries. Lifting-related back injuries are among the most commonly reported in the workplace. It is important for all employees to take the time to make sure they are utilizing proper techniques

while lifting.



Start in a safe position — it is important not to lift from a standing position or with your knees locked. This greatly increases the chance for a back strain.

Lift an item from the floor if possible. If the item is obviously too heavy to lift,

then do not attempt lifting it alone or without the use of a mechanical aid. Stand as close as possible to the item and kneel, resting one knee on the floor. Tighten your core muscles — including the muscles in your abdomen, back and pelvis — and lift the object between your legs, keeping the object as close to your body as possible.

Use your back muscles primarily to keep your back straight as you lift. Don't twist or veer to one side or too far back, as this can cause back pain or even injury. Use your leg muscles — not your back — to lift the object.

— DEP Safety Committee

DEP staff recognized at IT Summit

Four DEP staff members received awards for excellence during this fall's West Virginia Information Technology Summit.

Mike Shank and Larry
Evans from the Information
Technology Office, along with
Charlie Sturey, from the
Division of Mining and
Reclamation, partnered with
staff from other federal and
state programs to create an
Internet mapping application
that enables interested
parties to view the borders of
neighboring states'
underground mines.

This groundbreaking technology fostered multi-state cooperation in the mining industry.

Another award was presented to the DEP's John Szasz for his excellence in information technology service and support.

He works in conjunction with the state Help Desk, connecting the right people with the problems. He also handles the customer service side of the Environmental Resources Information System.

DEP retirements

Pam Hayes

DLR

Last day: Nov. 30 Years of service: 37

Rose Long

DWWM

Last day: Dec. 30 Years of service: 27

DEP employee earns accolades for filmmaking, screenwriting

Lawrence Burgess, who works for the Department of Environmental Protection's Abandoned Mine Lands Program, has won several honors in 2011 for his filmmaking and screenwriting.

Burgess won second– and third-place awards in competition sponsored by West Virginia Writers Inc. for two screenplays he penned titled "The Circle" and "Twelve."

His black-and-white short film, "Second Shift" won second place in both the Short Film category and Student Film category at the Marietta Film Festival.

Burgess also has earned honors from Amazon Studios for script writing.

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Derek Giebell, DMR
- ► Garland Roberts, DWWM
- ▶ Callie Cronin Sams. PIO



 $Lois\ Pigott's\ photo\ of\ Dame's\ Rocket,\ shot\ in\ Randolph\ County,\ graces\ the\ cover\ of\ the\ 2012\ "Roadsides\ In\ Bloom"\ calendar.$

Focusing on flowers

Calendar a family affair for cover winner

By Colleen O'Neill

This photo buff's picture of Dame's Rocket landed her on the cover of the 2012 Operation Wildflower "Roadsides in Bloom" calendar.

The photograph was of the purple flowers as they grew along Route 219, north of Valley Head in Randolph County.

Lois Pigott, a transplant from Ohio who has called West Virginia home since she was five, enjoys taking pictures of wildflowers and wildlife.

REAP's annual calendar was the perfect way for her to showcase her photos.

"I had not seen the 'Roadsides in Bloom' calendar until 2007," the Marion County resident said. "My sister saw an ad in the Clarksburg newspaper

"All of my family and friends will be excited when they see it."

Lois Pigott

Calendar cover winner

and gave me the number to call for a calendar."

Pigott, 67, really liked the calendar and thought she'd give the contest a try.

"Because I was a photo nut, I decided to enter the contest for the 2008 calendar," she said.

Her picture of Yellow Flag was featured in the calendar, as were photos she entered in 2009 and 2010.

Never before, however, had one of her pictures made the cover.

"I was surprised when I came home one day and (REAP's) Travis (Cooper) had left a message saying my photo had been chosen for the front of the calendar," Pigott said. "All of my family and friends will be surprised and excited when they see it."

Pigott's winning photo was chosen by judges from more than 70 entries, submitted by more than 30 photographers.

As it turns out, Pigott is not the only member of her family who is handy with a camera.

"I am really excited about the calendar this year because my sister will also have a photo in it," she said. "I also have been encouraging my oldest granddaughter to enter the contest. She hasn't yet, but I think she should because she is really good with a camera."

Pigott will celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary this year by taking a trip with her husband and, of course, capturing much of it on camera.

She has eight grandchildren, who make for good photo subjects as well.

"I have always liked photographing my grandchildren and their cats and dogs," Pigott said

■ DEP calendar coordinator Sherry Thaxton said a limited amount of calendars remain. Those interested should contact her at: Sherry.R.Thaxton.wv.gov





Division of Personnel Harassment Policy acknowledgment due Feb. 15, 2012

On Dec. 1, 2011, the Division of Personnel Prohibitive Workplace Harassment Policy (Policy DOP-P6) was revised. This policy replaces the Prohibitive Workplace Harassment Bulletin (DOP-B6), which was revised in December 2006.

To find the policy, go to the DEP Intranet and select "policies." Click on "policy lookup" and reference DOP-P6. The policy, as well as Appendix A, which requires the employee's signature acknowledging he/she has read and understands the policy, are posted.

The biggest difference in the policy and the bulletin is the policy is much more specific. There are numerous additions to the policy.

For example, this policy covers all independent contracts, volunteers and employees of the State of West Virginia, including executive, administrative, classified, non-classified, exempt, and temporary employees, and employees of county health departments affiliated with the DOP.

Third party harassment is defined as:

- An employee is harassed by a non-employee such as a client or vendor;
- An employee harasses a non-employee with whom the agency has a business relationship; or,
- An employee believes that a hostile environment exists due to a sexual relationship involving two other employees.

An employee in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The responsibilities of each individual in helping to prevent harassment are:

- Refrain from all forms of harassment.
- Promptly report allegations or observations of harassment to the appropriate individuals.
- Fully cooperate in and not interfere with any employer-authorized investigation.
- Not retaliate against those who participate in the complaint and/or investigation process.
 - Participate in required training.
- Acknowledge understanding of and compliance with this policy by signing the Prohibited Workplace Harassment Acknowledgement Form (Appendix A).

As a reminder, after you have read the DOP Prohibitive Workplace Harassment Policy, please sign Appendix A and return it via email or interdepartmental mail to Angela.Garner@wv.gov.

If you have any questions about the policy please contact Nancy Frazier at Nancy.L.Frazier@wv.gov.

Unlike many previous policy acknowledgements, this one requires supervisors to acknowledge that they have discussed the policy with their employees.

Each manager must sign the acknowledgment of all of their employees.

All acknowledgments must be returned to Angela Garner, Human Resources, no later than Feb. 15, 2012.

WEE

Continued from Page 1

provide an easy-access, user-friendly, fun online space to represent and connect with the resources of the NPS Program.

"I believe social networking will be an instrumental tool for sharing information and overcoming the enormous challenges once faced in distributing pertinent information to everyone," said Jami Thompson of DEP's counterpart West Virginia Conservation Agency. "Facebook has changed the way we think about information and how we can collaborate. Everything is public. Ideas and information are immediately available for everyone to access. When information is available, ideas are immediately tested and evolve."

"We want to play an active role in helping watershed associations protect and restore the streams and rivers of West Virginia," said Teresa Koon, an assistant director in the DWWM and the NPS Program leader. "Some of our newer staff really pushed for this Facebook page as a way for us to do that. We can help spread the word about events and activities, provide a forum for collaboration and discussion and be an everyday part of the lives of watershed volunteers."

"More and more, social media like Facebook and YouTube are becoming the way people get their news and information. These are two more venues for us to get our message out to the public about what the agency does."

Kathy Cosco

DEP Communications chief

The NPS Program's mission is to protect and restore waters that are affected by nonpoint source pollution from land runoff, precipitation, drainage, seepage and other sources.

States report that nonpoint source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems and can adversely affect drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

Every Monday, the NPS Committee will add a "Fun Fact" about water to the NPS Program Facebook page.

In addition to <u>YouTube</u>, DEP videos also can be accessed on <u>Vimeo</u>, another video streaming Web site. YouTube subscribers have the option of receiving alerts every time a new video in added to the DEP channel.

Huff said close to 1,000 views have been documented for DEP videos.

"More and more, social media like Facebook and YouTube are becoming the way people get their news and information," said DEP Communications Chief Kathy Cosco. "These are two more venues for us to get our message out to the public about what the agency does."