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35th Jr. Conservation Camp Teaches Environmentally Friendly Lessons

by Caroline Mitchell

On June 15, more than 150 excited children arrived at Cedar Lakes Conference Center in Ripley for the 35th annual Junior Conservation Camp.

After settling in and relinquishing their cell phones, the campers gathered in the assembly hall to watch a photo slide show of last year's camp and to hear about what to expect over the coming week.

With all the activities planned, it seemed one week would not be enough. The schedule was filled with classes, special projects, and presentations designed to teach kids important skills and lessons about protecting our environment.

The classes included everything from first aid to forestry. Camp-

ers learned how to perform a water study and how to hunt safely. They created art in the recycling class, using cardboard as a canvas and melting crayons to create unique and colorful pictures.

In "Basics of Camping," the kids discussed the principles of the Leave No Trace curriculum, which teaches the steps that should be taken to leave the smallest footprint possible when camping. As an extra treat, they got to make their own ice cream. Campers were also taken on a geocaching trek.

In the afternoons, the campers got to choose their own activities. Options included swimming, canoeing, archery, and an additional class on hunter safety. Campers could also



Junior Conservation Camp taught children lessons ranging from gun safety to first aid. This was the 35th annual camp.

choose to make paracord bracelets during this time, or attend the "How to Be a Junior Leader" class, in which the extension camp instructor (ECI) from West Virginia University explained the responsibilities of a junior leader and offered advice to campers interested in being junior leaders in the future.

See CAMP, Page 4

DEP Awards Honor Protectors of State's Environment

by Caroline Mitchell

The mission of the Department of Environmental Protection is a simple one, but it is not something that one agency can achieve on its own.

Each year, the DEP recognizes the work of companies, industries and individuals who are working toward the same goal: promoting a healthy environment.

On June 25, this year's award recipients joined with DEP officials for a special ceremony recognizing their achievements.

There were 12 categories, with some categories having more than one winner.

These awards are not simply pieces of pretty green glass. For the recipients, they are a token of appreciation for the work they do every day.

Melissa Luna and James



Rye, professors at West Virginia University, were recipients of the Education and Community Involvement Awards.

Both expressed gratitude to Kim Maxwell, the DEP Division of Water and Waste Management (DWWM) employee who nominated them.

"Being recognized for doing something I really care about is certainly an incredible honor," Melissa said.

James added that such an honor conveys the importance of environmental literacy to WVU administrators. The professors hope that their incorporation of environmental education will inspire future teachers to do

the same, he said.

"This award recognizes that my colleagues and I are putting forth a strong effort to develop environmental literacy and a sense of stewardship in future teachers in regards to water quality and quantity," James said.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman personally thanked each of the recipients and the DEP employees who nominated them as he presented each award.

Sponsored by the Division of Air Quality's Gene Coccari, Eastwood Elementary School in Morgantown won in the Clean Energy category. With its green features, Eastwood uses 25 percent less energy and 31 percent less water than conventional schools of the same size.

See AWARDS, Page 6

Drone Can Give DEP Responders Bird's Eye View of Disaster Areas

by Jake Glance

Imagine a situation like the February CSX derailment and how useful it would have been to have immediately gotten a bird's eye view of the entire area. Thanks to the DEP's two new remote-controlled drones, that can easily be done.

The Phantom Advanced drones, recently acquired by the DEP's Public Information Office (PIO) and Office of Special Reclamation (OSR), have already entered service - PIO's shooting video for "Environment Matters" and OSR's surveying projects. PIO has a Phantom 3 drone while OSR has a Phantom 2.

But the machines can do more than capture high-definition video while buzzing through the air. They can provide a real-time look at what's below, whether it is a derailed train, an abandoned mine site, an old manufac-



turing facility or chemical spill.

"We've been looking into getting a drone for over a year but we decided to wait while the technology and the regulations for flying them were evolving," said Mike Huff, who handles every production aspect of Environment Matters — including shooting the video captured by the PIO drone.

"Since we're using it non-commercially, we are legally flying under the model aircraft guidelines that apply to radio-controlled airplanes and helicopters."

Huff, an award-winning journalist, has been involved with TV production for many years, and has seen some major advancements in how it is done.

"It's pretty cool. I've done a fair amount of aerial photography over the years, all shot out of a Cessna or the back of WOWK-TV's Chopper 13, and I was pleasantly surprised how good and stable the video from the drone is."

Not only can the drone shoot video, it can stream video live right to Huff's iPhone, allowing him to see what the drone sees — which could be a big advantage when trying to deter-

promoting a healthy environment

INDEPTH

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This picture from the February 2004 edition of inDEPth shows our current headquarters nearing completion. Within a few months, hundreds of DEP employees would complete the move from the old headquarters in Nitro and from other area satellite locations.

mine how to approach a major disaster like a train derailment or evaluate an abandoned mine site. Mike said he has already discussed this feature with Rusty Joins, who heads up DEP's Homeland Security and Emergency Response division.

The drone is battery powered and can fly for about 20 minutes on a full charge.

Mike Sheehan with the Office of Special Reclamation said that office's drone has been used to survey sites and develop reclamation estimates.

"We can record video to show before and after shots of reclamation sites, and it helps save a lot of time going back and forth because we can review the HD video at the office," Sheehan said.

PIO "Touring" DEP Field Offices Across West Virginia

by Jake Glance

Every July, there's a grueling cycling event that takes competitors more than 2,000 miles across the French countryside. The 21-stage event features long climbs up steep mountains, flat sections through towns, and time trials where the competitors ride bicycles that cost more than most people's first car.

The Tour de France is known around the world. And that got DEP Social Media Coordinator Brianna Hickman thinking of ways to use online chatter about the event to highlight the work done at field offices.

The first "Tour de DEP," a visit to each field office, is already

under way. And while Brianna isn't riding a bicycle to each of the field offices, she is tweeting an elevation profile of each "stage," or leg of her tour. Elevation profiles are often featured at the beginning of the telecast of each stage of the Tour de France to show the hills that will be climbed that day — and if West Virginians know anything, they know hills.

"I thought creating a Tour de France-themed Twitter adventure would be a really fun way to engage our followers while sharing information about DEP," Brianna said.

This is a learning experience more than anything, she said.

"During the visits, I'm looking forward to meeting new people, and learning about some of the projects and challenges unique to each DEP field office. I'm also planning on sharing interesting facts and tidbits about the towns and cities in which the offices are located."

The Twitter hashtag for the tour is #TourdeDEP. To follow along with this year's tour, simply search for that hashtag on Twitter.

The @DEPWV Twitter account now has nearly 600 followers. For a complete schedule of Tour de DEP stages, see page 4 of this edition of inDEPth.



So many DEP acronyms, so little time. Do you know what the letters below stand for? The answers are on the bottom of the last page. No cheating!



A _____ S _____ Tanks



T _____ A _____ and
G _____ Information S _____



C _____ Environmental
R _____, C _____, and
L _____ Act



Junior Conservation Camp hosted more than 160 children from across West Virginia. The kids learned outdoor skills such as first aid, fishing and gun safety.



Skills like first aid are vital to safe exploration of our wilderness. Here, campers learn how to splint a broken arm.



Campers got an up-close look at the fish that live in our streams thanks to DEP's massive mobile aquarium.

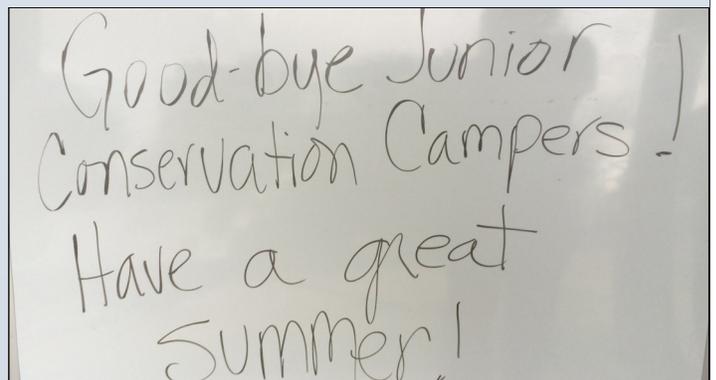
Scenes from Junior Conservation Camp 2015



Summer camp wouldn't be complete without roasted marshmallows and s'mores!



That's a whopper! Campers learned all about fishing at camp. This camper obviously was paying attention!



This was the 35th Junior Conservation Camp, and plans are already being made for the 36th!

DEP Hosting Public Hearings on Proposed Legislative Rules Throughout July

by Jake Glance

The DEP is hosting several public hearings this month to gather input on proposed legislative rules.

The public hearing schedule kicked off July 6 when the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) hosted a public meeting for seven proposed legislative rules.

The DAQ rules were 45-16 (Standards for Performance for New Sanitary Sources), 45-18 (Control of Air Pollution from Combustion of Solid Waste), 45-25 (Control of Air Pollution from Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities), 45-34 (Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants), 45-39 (Control of Annual Nitrogen Oxides Emissions - REPEAL), 45-40 (Control of Ozone Season Nitrogen Oxides Emissions), and 45-41 (Control of Annual Sulfur Dioxide Emissions - REPEAL).

The Office of Oil and Gas



(OOG) will hold a public hearing on July 23 for 35-8 (Rules Governing Horizontal Well Development).

The Division of Water and Waste Management (DWWM) has public hearings scheduled for three days in July. On July 21, the public hearing for 47-2 (Water Quality Standards) will be held. On July 24, a public

hearing will be held for 47-30A (Mining CAP Rule), during which time public comments will also be taken for Division of Mining and Reclamation (DMR) proposed rule 38-2 (Surface Mining and Reclamation). On July 30, there will be a public hearing for 47-63 (Aboveground Storage Tanks), 47-64 (Aboveground Storage Tank Fees), and 46-65 (Aboveground Storage Tank CAP).

Each of the remaining public hearings will be held at DEP headquarters in Kanawha City in the Coopers Rock Training Room beginning at 6 p.m. Attendees will be asked to sign up if they plan to offer oral comments on the rules and those comments, along with any written ones, will become part of the official record.

[More information about each proposed rule, including the full text, can be found on our website here.](#)



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DEP Celebrated “Birthday” on July 1: How Well Do You Know its History?

by Colleen O’Neal

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection just had a birthday!

It is a great time to look at the history of the agency to see just how much you know about it. So take this short quiz to test your knowledge.

1. In what year did the DEP become the state’s environmental protection and regulatory agency? (Hint: A popular movie was “A Few Good Men” and Washington’s NFL team won the Super Bowl.)

2. DEP began as a “division,” and was then elevated to a “department.” How long has DEP been a “department”?

3. Throughout DEP’s exist-

ence, it has been led by eight people. Can you put these eight agency directors/secretaries in order of their service? John “Jack” Caffrey, Dave Callaghan, Mike Callaghan, Mike Castle, Randy Huffman, Mike Miano, Eli McCoy and Stephanie Timmermeyer.

4. What year did DEP’s current headquarters, in Kanawha City, open? (Hint: The answer is in a caption somewhere in this newsletter.)

5. What two offices were combined to form the DEP’s newest office, the Business and Technology Office (BTO)?

Look for the answers at the bottom of page 6!

CAMP

cont’d from Page 1

On the first day, the campers learned about bluebirds; what they eat, their habitat, and what animals prey on them. This information was useful as campers worked on their project for the week—a bluebird house, which they could take home or leave hanging along the hiking trail at Cedar Lakes.

On Tuesday, the DEP’s mobile aquarium was filled with indigenous fish and provided great entertainment to the campers. The campers were also given the chance to ask questions about the fish.

Wednesday’s presentation was about hazardous materials. Not only did the campers learn about the duties of the DEP’s Homeland Security and Emergency Response group, they also got to see a demonstration of how a hazmat suit works.

Finally, on Thursday, some kids cringed while others were ecstatic to see a presentation on West Virginia snakes. Campers learned how to distinguish poisonous snakes from non-poisonous ones, and even got to touch the reptiles if they wanted.

For camper Bryce Ste-



Junior Conservation Campers Zoie Hill, Bryce Stephens, Savannah Seabolt, and Laynee Caldwell.

phens, from Parkersburg, the highlight of the week was fishing. In the class on fishing techniques, kids were able to spend a relaxing hour and a half by the lake waiting for a bite. In total, the campers caught 63 fish.

Laynee Caldwell, Zoie Hill, and Savannah Seabolt, all of Teays Valley, attended camp for the first time this year.

Laynee’s favorite activity was archery, while Zoie enjoyed the hunter safety class, which gave the campers a chance to learn how to properly handle and shoot a gun. The nature walk was Savannah’s favorite.

The week ended with a dance and an awards ceremony. Many parents came to watch their children receive ribbons for their accomplishments throughout the week.

Remaining Tour de DEP Schedule

July 16 – Elkview

July 17 – Bridgeport/Fairmont

July 22 – Romney

July 23 – Philippi



#TourdeDEP, #DEPWW

Storm Preparedness: Disaster Can Strike in Minutes

by Jake Glance

June 29, 2012, was a normal humid summer day - until a massive storm packing 80 mile-per-hour winds slammed West Virginia, leaving millions without power in the heat wave that followed.

Even meteorologists will tell you they can't predict every storm. But it is easy to make sure you will be prepared if (and when) another big storm hits.

Watch and Listen: Stay up-to-date on the latest weather information by watching/listening to newscasts on television/radio or checking internet news sites periodically. Having a battery-operated radio handy is always a good idea in case electricity is knocked out.

If Told to Evacuate, Go: Many people don't heed the advice of the authorities, but if you're told to leave an area, do it. It's better to be safe

than sorry. However, unless you live in a coastal or low-lying area, an area that floods frequently, or in manufactured housing, it is unlikely that emergency managers will ask you to evacuate. That means it is important for you and your family to have a plan that makes you as safe as possible in your home.

Develop a Family Plan: Your plan should be based on your vulnerability to storm hazards. You should keep a written plan and share it with friends as well as family members. This plan should be tailored specifically for your family and home. Include topics such as where the safest spots in your home are, escape routes, what to do with pets and emergency phone numbers.

Have a Disaster Supply Kit Ready: In addition to having a battery-operated radio to monitor weather reports (with extra batteries), it's advisa-



ble to also have a flashlight (again, with extra batteries), bottled water (at least one gallon daily per person for up to seven days), food (at least enough for up to seven days), toiletries or at least wet wipes and hand sanitizer, blankets, extra clothing and a first aid kit. It's also a good idea to have both a mobile phone and a land line phone, but keep in mind that both methods of communication may be impacted by the storm. Don't forget essential medications, infant and pet items and games for the kids. You should also have a good supply of cash as banks impacted by the storm may not be open for several days.

Secure Your Home: The most important precaution you can take

to reduce damage to your home and property is to protect the areas where wind and rain can enter.

Venture Out Only if Necessary: If you do need to drive, go slowly. Watch for trees, power lines and other debris that may be blocking your path. If there is high, fast-flowing water in your path, do not cross because of the possibility that you and your vehicle could be swept away. Keep in mind that not only could the water current be stronger than it appears on the surface, but the road bed underneath could be washed out. Over half of all flood-related drownings occur when vehicles are driven into hazardous flood water.



Get to bugzilla:
<http://bugz.dep.gov/>

Training video:
<http://depintranet.wv.gov/bugzillainfo/index.html>

Is there a Bug in our computer system?

ERIS NEEDS AN ENHANCEMENT

AIRTRAX IS DOWN

No need to take it out on your computer!



When you have a "bug" in an internal DEP computer system or your Division wants the IT staff to carry out an IT project you need to put your bug in BUGZILLA so we can track requests, prioritize them, and get more work done more efficiently.

ERIS IS NOT WORKING AS INTENDED

WE NEED A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM

APPLICATION XTENDER IS DOWN

WEB AML IS ACTING WANKY



AWARDS

cont'd from Page 1

In the category for a Sewage Treatment Plant Greater Than 400,000 Gallons Per Day, Shepherdstown Waste Water Treatment Plant took home the award, sponsored by Michael Kanehl from DWWM. Since the facility underwent a \$9.2 million upgrade, the wastewater plant's nitrogen and phosphorus levels have been outstanding, meeting watershed requirements for the Chesapeake Bay.

Three companies received awards in the category for Industry Greater Than 100 Employees. Mullican Flooring, out of Ronceverte, was sponsored by John Hendley with DWWM. Mullican Flooring has made great strides in improving its facility and protecting the water it discharges into the Greenbrier River.

Warren Northeast, in Glen Dale, was sponsored by Melisa Powers and Stanley Wolfe, both also of DWWM. With databases, safety data sheets, emergency plans and simulated drills, the company has multiple safeguards in place to protect its community.

The Bluefield Rail Yard, part of Norfolk Southern Corporation, was sponsored by Michael Puckett of DWWM. After struggling to comply with its WV/NPDES Individual Permit, Norfolk Southern made several changes, both structural and procedural, to the facility, which has allowed the yard to meet its permit requirements and protect the environment.

The winner in the Municipal Landfill category was the Short Creek Landfill in Wheeling, part of Republic Services. Its sponsors were DWWM's Jason Ely and Stanley Wolfe. The non-hazardous, municipal facility under-

went many improvements in 2014 which allowed it to increase its maximum allowable tonnage, and therefore better serve the community.

In addition to the WVU professors referenced earlier, there were several other recipients in the Education and Community Involvement category. Lethea Smith of Concord University, also nominated by Kim Maxwell, was recognized for the incorporation of environmental education in class curriculum. Callie Sams of DEP's Public Information Office (PIO) sponsored Joe and Vonda Gumm, who run the Randolph County Recycling Center in Elkins. Apart from running the recycling facility, the Gums also travel to local schools to teach kids about recycling, and are active in multiple community conservation efforts.

The Greenbrier River Watershed Association, out of Lewisburg, was sponsored by Dennis Stottlemeyer of the Environmental Advocate's Office. After concerned landowners approached the group about a proposed natural gas pipeline across the Greenbrier River, the Greenbrier River Watershed Association took it upon itself to research, network, and educate people about the implications of such projects.

Friends of Mill Creek, sponsored by DWWM's Tomi Bergstrom, was recognized for efforts to develop and clean up Mill Creek in Ripley. The group has sparked interest in the creek and helped to make it a recreational attraction.

Tomi also sponsored the winner of the Environmental Partnership category — the Stormwater Division of the City of Huntington. Forming partnerships with various local groups, the utility has instituted stricter guidelines for dealing with stormwater, which benefits the environment and the Huntington community.

Casey Korbini of the Division of Land Restoration sponsored the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle for an award in the Land Revitalization category. Based in Weirton, the BDC has worked hard to bring new businesses and people to the area through brownfield redevelopment.

Patricia Blevins, of the McDowell County Solid Waste Authority, received the award for Outstanding Litter Control Officer. Sponsored by Sara Prior of the PIO, the Welch resident and vice chairman of the local Emergency Planning Committee has reached out to children in her community to educate them on the impacts of littering and has worked closely with local police to ensure litter laws are enforced.

Three awards were presented for Environmental Stewardship. Sponsored by the PIO's Tom Aluise, Hometown Elementary School in Red House received recognition for its efforts to foster an appreciation of the environment in its students. A national Green Ribbon School, Hometown Elementary boasts a vegetable garden and a small farmer's market.

Petersburg Elementary School, in Petersburg, was sponsored by Harmony Dressler, also with PIO. By labeling stormwater drains, running a paper recycling program, and raising a vegetable garden, this national Green Ribbon School is teaching its kids the importance of environmental stewardship.

The Paint Creek Watershed Association in Gallagher was sponsored by Tomi Bergstrom. The group participates in multiple cleanup efforts and works to get the community involved by hosting events such as "Kid's Day" and making improvements to Paint Creek.

In the Safe Dams category,



DEP Cabinet Secretary Huffman presents the Emergency Response Award to Morgan County officials.

DWWM's Brian Long sponsored the West Virginia Conservation Agency out of Charleston. The WVCA committed to completing deferred maintenance on watershed dams that had developed numerous issues due to a lack of upkeep. Because of those efforts, residents who live below flood-control dams are safer.

On Oct. 16, home heating oil leaked from a tank in Berkeley Springs. The three recipients of the award in the Emergency Response category — the Warm Springs Public Service District, the Berkeley County Volunteer Fire Department and Morgan County Facilities Director Vince Cichocki — worked together to keep the oil from entering the Potomac River and helped with the cleanup. These award recipients were sponsored by Gerald Crispino of DWWM,

The Cabinet Secretary Award — which, as the name implies, is sponsored by Randy Huffman — was presented to the Coal River Group. Through various improvement projects, public outreach, and events such as the Tour de Coal, this group has transformed the Coal River Water Trail into a top recreational destination in the southern part of the state.



New Hires

No new hires to announce!

Recent Retirements

James Bennett, Division of Mining and Reclamation
Edward Gainer, Office of Oil and Gas
Thomas McCarthy, Division of Land Restoration

Acronym quiz answers: AST stands for Aboveground Storage Tanks, TAGIS stands for Technical Applications and Geographic Information System, and CERCLA stands for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.
DEP quiz answers: 1) 1992; 2) 14 years; 3) Dave Callaghan, McCoy, Carfrey, Milano, Castle, Mike Callaghan, Timmermyer, Huffman; 4) 2004; 5) BTO combines the Office of Administration and the Information and Technology Office.