



Scott Mandirola, acting director of Water and Waste Management, grew up in Connecticut and spent time in Alaska before settling here.

New England native at home

By Tom Aluise

Growing up in Connecticut, Scott Mandirola never dreamed of one day settling down and raising a family in West Virginia.

"It's not one of those places, as a kid, you say, 'I want to move there,'" said the Department of Environmental Protection's acting director of Water and Waste Management.

Really, Mandirola wasn't a whole lot different than any other New Englander.

"New England is kind of a funny area," the Suffield, Conn., native said. "For most people who grow up there, it's the center of the country. Other places are great to visit, but you think, 'Why would I ever leave?' That's kind of the attitude up there."

Mandirola did leave for Anchorage, Alaska, in 1989, settling into a job with SGS Environmental Services Inc., the largest testing and certification company in the world. As production manager, Mandirola managed more than 20 laboratory employees, performed technical review of

"There's a lot going on in water right now. It's ever-changing. And with the new administration, I anticipate it being a challenge to find out what exactly the EPA's agenda is."

Scott Mandirola

data and aided sales and marketing with technical issues.

An avid outdoorsman, Alaska's abundance of fishing, hunting, camping and mountain climbing opportunities was too much for Mandirola to pass up.

After five years, however, Mandirola began looking for a way to get closer to home. During his stay in Anchorage, he married his college sweetheart and two daughters followed not long after. The family wanted to be near the girls'

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Earth Day

Close to 1,100 kids take part

More than 40 Department of Environmental Protection employees helped make the 2009 Earth Day celebration at Coonskin Park a success.

The event, sponsored by the DEP's REAP Program, took place at Coonskin for the third straight year, and close to 1,100 elementary school students from seven counties attended.

Numbers were up drastically from 2008, when about 300 children were on hand for Earth Day festivities at the park, said Travis Cooper, coordinator for the DEP's Make it Shine program.

This year's celebration took place on April 22 and attracted students from Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Logan, Mason, Putnam and Kanawha counties.

"Basically it was a day for students to come out and learn about protecting the environment and natural resource preservation," Cooper said.

"It's good to have it outdoors. They get to interact with the environment."

There was plenty to keep the kids

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Plenty of interactive displays were available at April's Earth Day celebration at Coonskin Park. Seven counties were represented.

MANDIROLA

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grandparents in New England -- or at least in the same time zone.

Luckily, SGS Environmental also had a lab in Charleston.

Mandirola visited the state capital, liked what he saw and moved his then family of four to the Kanawha Valley on July 4, 1994.

He worked 12 more years with SGS before joining the DEP in April 2006 to manage the statewide Water Quality Standards Program.

The 44-year-old Mandirola took on his current role in September 2008.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman said Mandirola's extensive background in lab work, as well as with the DEP's Water Quality program, make him a perfect fit for his current job.

"Scott's background has uniquely qualified him to step into a very demanding, and sometimes controversial position, with all the credibility and professionalism needed to be effective," Huffman said.

Mandirola has adjusted well to his new role, just as his family has adjusted to life in West Virginia.

"I don't see us moving anytime soon," he said. "I think it would take a crowbar to pry my kids out of here."

Mandirola's two daughters, Sarah (16) and Amanda (15), are active in the Capital High School band. His son, Stratton (11), attends Pinch Elementary. Mandirola's wife, Becky, is a substitute teacher in the Kanawha County school system.

All are active in the outdoors. The Mandirola children hunt and fish with their dad.

"We don't buy a lot of meat," Mandirola said. "The kids don't know what steak tastes like. We always have venison in the freezer."

Not long after his move here, it was clear Mandirola's passion for hunting and fishing would be more than satisfied.

"I had no idea you had all the activities you have down here," the Elkview resident said. "It's not one

of those places you Google all the time."

The Mandirolas own a canoe and four kayaks.

"We spend a lot of time in the lakes and rivers around here," he said. "One thing I like about this area is I can be fishing 10 minutes out of work."

Mandirola, who holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry/geology, and an associate arts degree in general studies from Keene State College, said directing the DEP's Water and Waste Management Division is both rewarding and challenging.

"There's a lot going on in water right now," he said. "It's ever-changing. And with the new administration, I anticipate it being a challenge to find out what exactly the EPA's agenda is.

"For eight years, it's had a relatively consistent agenda. But with administration changes, you can expect some policy changes. We're kind of feeling them out right now.

"We've always had a good rapport with the EPA. As long as we're clear on what they're requiring and what we need to require, there shouldn't be a problem."

Mandirola said among the hot-button issues in water right now is the environmental impact of hydraulic fracturing methods used to drill for natural gas, including in the lucrative Marcellus Shale, an ancient rock formation nearly a mile underground and found beneath much of Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York.

"We want to make sure it's done right and there won't be any environmental issues that could be far-reaching," he said.

Mandirola's division also has been working with watershed groups on minimizing non-point source pollution.

"They've had a tremendous amount of success on small-scale projects," he said.

Among Mandirola's long-term goals for his division is the conversion from paper to electronic filing of all discharge monitoring reports and permitting.

"That's a goal I would really like to see accomplished," he said.

It's nice to be reminded of strengths

By Randy Huffman

Surprises come in all shapes and sizes. The best, of course, are the pleasant ones.

On May 20, I was scheduled to honor seven dedicated Department of Environmental Protection employees for their outstanding work within the agency. As I opened the door to the Coopers Rock Training Room for the Employee of the Month and Reward and Recognition ceremony, I was stunned and pleased at the same time. DEP



Message from the cabinet secretary

employees filled just about every chair and were lined up shoulder-to-shoulder against the walls in an overwhelming show of support, not only for their fellow workers, but for the agency as well.

It had to be one of the best turnouts ever for a recognition ceremony. Strength indeed comes in numbers. And any corporation or agency that does not have a unified workforce -- everybody on the same page, working toward common goals -- will no doubt struggle to meet its objectives.

At the DEP, we have awe-inspiring responsibilities. Our decisions have a profound effect not only on the environment, but also on the economy and on people's lives and their jobs. Our ability to reach those decisions in the most intelligent, fair and timely manner always has and always will be contingent on a collective effort of cooperation, understanding and support among all our divisions.

We should all feel fortunate to be a part of an agency that is as strong as ever. It is professionally run by smart, capable employees who value, appreciate and have a

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Blasters exams, training set

The DEP will conduct blasters training and exams on the upcoming dates:

June 4/9, July 9/14, Aug. 6/11, Sept. 3/10 and Oct. 1/6.

Training begins at 8 a.m. in Room 3043. Exams are given in Coopers Rock at 8 a.m.



Governor
Joe Manchin III
Cabinet Secretary
Randy Huffman
Communications Director
Kathy Cosco
Editor
Tom Aluise
Public Information Office
601 57th St. S.E.
Charleston, WV 25304
Email:
Kathy.Cosco@wv.gov

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Jennifer Pauer was among several Water and Waste Management employees who added plants to the DEP's rain garden.

Rain garden gets some TLC

By Tom Aluise

The Department of Environment Protection's rain garden got spruced up for the spring and summer, thanks to several DEP employees who took time to bolster the garden's plant numbers.

The 1,800-square foot garden now has close to 30 different species of native plants, said Chris Gatens, an environmental inspector supervisor with the DEP's Water and Waste Management Division.

Gatens and Jennifer Pauer traveled to Hinton to choose the latest batch of plants from a native plant nursery.

On April 30, Gatens, along with Water and Waste Management employees Rose Long, Michelle Finney, Julie Wandling, Sherry Wilkins and Pauer, spent part of the afternoon planting everything from wild indigo, witch hazel and spicebush to black haw, pinxter azalea and McDowell's sunflower in



Top, DEP employees take time to add new plants to the rain garden. Right, Sherry Wilkins inspects a new addition to the garden. Wilkins helped develop the garden in the fall of 2008.



the rain garden.

The plants are native to West Virginia and should do very well in the garden, said Wilkins, who headed up the spring plant and was instrumental, along with former DEP employee Taryn Murray, in constructing the rain garden, located in the front

west corner of the DEP's parking lot.

The garden was completed in the fall of 2008 and serves as a natural filtering system for storm water that runs off the DEP parking lot.

"The idea of a rain garden is to provide up-take and filtering of polluted runoff, utilizing

plants and soils," Wilkins said.

The rain garden concept was developed in the mid-1990s in Maryland.

"I started hearing about this about five years ago," Wilkins said. "It really interested me. I thought, 'What a cool way to manage polluted runoff.'"

Wilkins said the garden receives runoff from about 1.4 acres of parking lot.

"Ideally, this should have been twice as big to handle this much runoff, but we couldn't take up that much of the parking lot," Wilkins said.

Ten parking spaces were eliminated to make room for the garden, which has a mixture of sand, non-manure compost and top soil. It is covered with three inches of mulch. The original soil, most of which was clay, was removed.

The West Virginia Department of Highways

See GARDEN, Page 4



Top, Chris Gatens, of the DEP's Water and Waste Management Division, unloads native plants for the rain garden. Bottom, DEP employees Michelle Finney and Rose Long are busy getting the plants in the ground. The rain garden, which was built last fall in the front, west corner of the DEP parking lot, will be dedicated this summer.

GARDEN

Continued from Page 3

assisted in the garden's construction.

"They brought in their heavy construction crew, along with their dump trucks, excavator, back hoes and expertise," Wilkins said.

"It is just as much their rain garden as ours.

"Without their help, there is no way we could have done this."

Wilkins said the garden, which requires routine maintenance, is one of only a few in the state.

Plans are to officially dedicate the garden in July.

Kids enjoy day at DEP headquarters

By Tom Aluise

With a short time to prepare, Kenna DeRaimo orchestrated a successful Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day at the Department of Environmental Protection.

She has bigger plans for next year, when the event falls on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

"We're hoping to plan some activities related to Earth Day, as well as give the kids a better understanding of the DEP and what we do here," said DeRaimo, an administrative secretary with the DEP.

This year was the first time the DEP officially took part in National Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day. DeRaimo and DEP Administrator June Casto spearheaded the day and had about two weeks to plan.

Eighteen children and grandchildren of DEP employees participated on April 23 and were treated to a day of both fun and educational activities. The kids' ages ranged from eight to 12 years old.

The day started in the West Virginia Conference Room with a meet-and-greet, during which the young visitors put on name-tags and got to know each other.

"We had them pair up with a buddy and tell each other about themselves," DeRaimo said. "It made them all a little more comfortable with each other."

A CPR/AED interactive demonstration by DEP Administrative Services Manager Tammy Canterbury followed in the Mon-



Caleb Taylor, son of DEP employee Carrie Taylor, enjoys Bring Your Daughter/Son to Work Day.

arch Conference Room.

Next on the agenda was lunch with Miss West Virginia, Jessi Pierson, of Milton. Pierson signed autographs, answered questions and posed for pictures while the kids ate pizza.

After a brief visit from DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman, who presented each in the group with a certificate for attending, the children were split into two teams for a game of "Junk Jeopardy" in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The DEP's Diana Haid, an environmental resource specialist, moderated the game, which followed a similar format as the television show.

Teams worked together in choosing categories and fake dollar amounts. Multiple-choice questions dealt with the environment and each team received a prize.

See KIDS, Page 5



The DEP's Diana Haid, left, and Annette Bennett monitored a game of "Junk Jeopardy" during which the kids answered questions about the environment.



Miss West Virginia, Milton's Jessi Pierson, talks to the kids.

KIDS

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DeRaimo said she is looking forward to next year when organizers have more time to prepare.

"Our initial attempt was successful," said DeRaimo, who also got help from DEP Personnel Assistant Sheri Richardson. "We look forward to the chance to improve each year and to get more participation from our employees.

"Next year it will be planned ahead of time, so we can send an agenda out to our employees.

"We want to have different activities each year because we could have the same kids coming back year to year.

"We want to keep it interesting for the kids."

After some initial worries, DeRaimo said the kids seemed to enjoy the DEP's inaugural Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

"At first they seemed a little shy and I was a little concerned ... I thought they would be bored," DeRaimo said.

"By the end of the day, when they were doing 'Junk Jeopardy,' you would have never known many of them were strangers that morning."

DeRaimo said the event would not have been a success without the contributions from several DEP employees, including Charlie Rollins, from the human resources division, who took photos.

"I would like to extend a special thanks to each and everyone who helped in any way," she said.

National Bring Your Daughter/Son to Work Day Participants

- Taylor Baldwin, Ann Baldwin, mother.
- Tristan Blanchard, Amy Blanchard, mother.
- Scott Blackshire, Jeanine Cameron, mother.
- Molly Campbell, Melinda Campbell, mother.
- Gregory Chase Derrick, Lori Derrick, mother.
- Jordan Alexandria Graley, Steven Graley, grandfather.
- Julia Hunter, Russ Hunter, father.
- Ashley McClung, Lisa McClung, mother.
- Keriz Edwards, Nancy Moore, grandmother.
- Dylan Spradling, Misty Nichols, mother.
- Amber Michelle Null, Greg Null, father.
- Mercedes and Corissa Quick, Kevin Quick, father.
- Abby Ranson, Elaine Ranson, grandmother.
- Paige Scruggs, Sheri Richardson, aunt.
- Jacob Lewis, Judy Smith, grandmother.
- Caleb Taylor, Carrie Taylor, mother.
- Katey Taylor, Randy Taylor, father.



Students built a globe out of blue and green grocery bags and watched REAP's rim crusher in action.



EARTH

Continued from Page 1

busy, including slithering snakes and other wildlife, courtesy of the state Department of Natural Resources and the DEP Watershed Assessment.

"The (DEP) Air Quality Division had some interactive displays to teach the kids about conservation of energy and being energy efficient," Cooper said.

In order to heighten the kids' awareness of the importance of recycling plastic bags, one activity in-

cluded constructing a globe out of blue and green grocery bags.

The frame for the globe was made out of chicken wire.

Kids also were entertained by the REAP program's powerful rim crusher, which helps the DEP dispose of old tires, and were educated by the DEP's Emergency Response Team.

"I think they enjoyed it and at the same time they are learning," Cooper said. "They really seemed to like the wildlife we had there."

Blood drive



Thirty-two DEP workers participated in April's blood drive, including Todd Shrewsbury, right, and Jesse Adkins, top. Sherry Hale and Shrewsbury won drawings for an overnight bag and heart-rate watch.





Nick Schaer displays produce from the heirloom organic vegetable farm he operates with his wife, Julie, in Putnam County.

Down on the farm

DEP geologist enjoys raising heirloom vegetables

Nick Schaer's day is far from over when he leaves his busy job as a program development geologist for the Division of Mining and Reclamation.

Schaer and his wife, Julie, operate a highly successful heirloom organic vegetable farm in Putnam County. The couple farms about an acre of a 25-acre family-owned tract of land on Hurricane Creek.

"Every summer day I leave work, drive to the farm and work until dark," said Schaer, who lives about a mile from the farm. "Every day I'm off, I go there and work."

The Schaers' farm, called The Potager, is one of fewer than 10 certified heirloom organic vegetable farms in West Virginia.

"To be certified, you have to show you planted all organic seed and you have to have a record of all the seed you planted within the last three years," Schaer said. "Part of why we're certified is we sell seed, too."

The Schaers also participate in an Organic Seed Partnership with West Virginia State University. The mission of the OSP is to develop and deliver improved vegetable varieties for organic production systems.

"We are both trained scientists so we really like getting to help with



Last year, the Schaers had a tunnel "winter crop" of produce, including cabbage, lettuce and arugula. They sell their produce at Charleston's Farmers' Market.

the university's research," Nick said.

The Schaers' farming methods minimize environmental hazards such as soil degradation, and air and water pollution. They use fertilizer from organic sources. Finding organic pesticides, however, presents a challenge.

"There are very few pesticides you can use," Schaer said. "A lot of times, if there's a certain pest that is really bad, you probably shouldn't be planting there."

Like Nick, Julie Schaer is a geologist but decided to leave her job

to pursue farming full-time.

"What began as something to do for fun and to pass the time has turned into a passion," Julie said. "I would rather pull weeds than sit behind a desk."

The Potager farm, in its sixth year, is on land that has been in Julie's family for over 175 years.

"Except for my mom's generation, our farm has been a full working farm since 1830," Julie said. "And I want to continue that tradition."

Nick said much of the equipment

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Julie Schaer uses her grandfather's old hand plow to work on the farm after doctors told her to stay off tractors during her pregnancy.

FARM

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the Schaers work with is the same Julie's grandfather used when he farmed the land.

"We still drive the same tractor," Nick said.

The Schaers grow close to two dozen different heirloom vegetables, cultivars that were commonly grown during early periods of human history but are not used in modern large-scale agriculture.

Today, the Schaers' produce is considered either old-fashioned or new-wave, depending on whom you talk to.

In selling their vegetables at Charleston's Farmers' Market, the Schaers cater to old-timers, who are reminded of their youth by the heirloom vegetables.

"They are the people who are familiar with foraging through the hills," Nick said.

There's also the "foodies," Nick's term for younger customers who like to experiment with different types of produce, or who are new to the area and want to sample local food.

"We love discovering native West Virginia crops that people have forgotten about," Nick said. "It is fun. And the fact that we are doing something good for society by preserving these heirloom varieties is rewarding."

Among the vegetables found in the Schaer garden are ground cherries, peppers, broccoli, lettuce, kale, cucumbers, zucchini and black Russian tomatoes.

Like most heirloom vegetables, the Schaers' tomatoes have a better taste than the hybrid variety you might buy at the grocery store.

"Hybrid varieties are not grown for taste," Nick said. "Most tomatoes are grown for shipping. They grow fast, they ship well and they taste like cardboard."

The Potager garden also produces various types of watermelons and a purple garlic variety from Soviet Georgia that is very popular.

"We sell every bit we grow and we have people begging us for more," Nick said of the Georgia garlic.

In addition to the Farmers' Market, the Schaers, who had their first child on May 7 (Cynthia Robin), also offer their produce through a subscription service and sell to some local restaurants.

AEP plant receives state's first carbon sequestration permit

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issued its first carbon dioxide sequestration permit in May.

An underground injection control permit for geologic carbon dioxide storage was issued to the Appalachian Power Company's Mountaineer Plant located in New Haven, Mason County.

"I've always said that we need to discover modern and more environmentally friendly ways to use the tremendous resource we have in West Virginia coal," Gov. Joe Manchin said. "That technology is here, today, and we are working hard to find even more innovative energy solutions that create jobs for West Virginians, while also protecting our environment. I welcome this partnership with AEP and commend them for their commitment to this carbon capture technology, because it will not only benefit our state with jobs and revenue, it will also benefit our nation in making clean coal a reality."

While there are a number of pilot projects involving carbon sequestration around the country, including in neighboring states such as Virginia and Ohio, the Mountaineer Plant project is one of the larger ones in the nation.

The permit allows the facility to capture and inject up to a maximum of 165,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year over a period of four to five years, using a process called carbon capture and storage.

Carbon dioxide is captured from flue gas produced by fossil-fueled power plants, or industrial facilities, compressed to convert it from a gaseous state to a supercritical fluid, and transported to the sequestration site via a pipeline.

The carbon dioxide is then injected into deep subsurface rock formations through one or more injection wells.

"This permit represents an important milestone in our

"... It will not only benefit our state with jobs and revenue, it will also benefit our nation in making clean coal a reality."



Gov. Joe Manchin

plan to begin operating the carbon capture and storage system at Mountaineer in September," said Michael G. Morris, AEP's chairman, president and chief executive officer. "The project is critical to the nation's goal of addressing greenhouse gas emissions, to AEP's compliance with future carbon constraints and to coal maintaining its important role in the nation's energy mix. When this unit begins operation, West Virginia will take center stage in the battle against climate change."

The governor said:

"Carbon capturing is important to ensuring our energy independence, and that is why one of my bills this session established a framework for the permitting of CO2 sequestration operations."

House Bill 2860 provides legal and regulatory framework for the permitting of carbon dioxide sequestration operations, including: the monitoring of the carbon dioxide sequestration sites; providing notice of the carbon dioxide sequestration operation to other surface owners; providing notice in the event of an excursion of the sequestered carbon dioxide; and, terminating a project and post-closure care of a carbon dioxide sequestration facility.



A Kanawha Valley high school student picks up trash on a creek bank behind her school during West Virginia's Make It Shine spring cleanup efforts in early April.

Statewide cleanup efforts yield 300-plus tons of litter

By Tom Aluise

What weighs 335 tons and takes 7,476 people to lift?

That's the amount of litter picked up by volunteers across the Mountain State during the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Make It Shine and Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup programs.

Administered by the DEP's REAP (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan) program, Make It Shine and Adopt-A-Highway attracted more than 7,000 volunteers from all 55 West Virginia counties for April's cleanup of the state's public lands.

"That's a big goal, to try and schedule at least one cleanup in each county," said the DEP's Travis Cooper.

Cooper heads up Make It Shine, a comprehensive program aimed at making West Virginia one of the nation's cleanest states.

This year, Make It Shine was scheduled April 1-14 and included close to 120 cleanups around West Virginia.

About 1,604 volunteers cleaned litter from rivers, streams, school grounds and state parks.

During the two-week period, Cooper said volunteers collected: 269,748 pounds of litter; 31,692 pounds of scrap metal; 4,564 tires; 407 pounds of aluminum; and 344 appliances, while working a total of 6,448 hours.

Volunteers also cleaned 115 miles of roadway and 91 miles of stream; cleared 43 miles of trail; and cleaned up 398 acres of parks and 30 illegal dump sites.

The Adopt-A-Highway cleanup



Kanawha County middle school students participate in a cleanup at their school.

occurred on April 25 and was bolstered by 5,872 volunteers who picked up 409,070 pounds of litter and collected 797 tires from the state's roadways.

The most litter (31,855 pounds) was collected in Kanawha County, while the most tires (175) were collected in Braxton County.

Greenbrier County had the most volunteers (339).

The Adopt-A-Highway program was established in the late 1980s by the Division of Natural Resources.

Its objectives are to save taxpayers money by increasing public awareness and to serve as an educational tool by focusing on the consequences which result from unchecked litter.

"The No. 1 initiative of REAP is to rid the state of litter and, through the governor's strategic initiatives, make West Virginia the cleanest state in the nation," said REAP Director Danny Haught.

"Volunteering is a key issue. Without our volunteers, it would be very difficult to meet the goals we've set for this program."

HUFFMAN

Continued from Page 2

firm grasp on the kind of teamwork so vital to successfully carrying out the daunting task of protecting the environment.

That appreciation was refreshingly evident on May 20 in a crowded Coopers Rock Training Room. It is one thing to say "thank you" to a co-worker in the hallway. It is another to express your gratitude by nominating someone for an award and then honoring them with loud applause from a packed house.

I'm hopeful that too much time won't pass before our next recognition ceremony.

And I'm counting on another standing-room-only crowd to remind us once again that we're all in this together.

River Sweep scheduled June 20

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's REAP program will team up with Ohio in the annual River Sweep 2009 on June 20.

Travis Cooper, coordinator for the DEP's Make It Shine program, is organizing volunteers to clean up various sites along the West Virginia side of the river.

The DEP will hand out all the supplies and provide T-shirts to volunteers.

Workers can expect to encounter everything from old tires and glass to plastic bottles and shopping carts along the river bank.

Volunteers will come from environmental organizations, civic groups, recreational clubs, scout troops, local businesses and the general public.

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) sponsors the Ohio-side cleanup.

Junior Conservation Camp set

West Virginia's youth can learn about the environment and gain experience in sound conservation management during the 29th annual Junior Conservation Camp at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley.

This year's camp is scheduled for June 22-26 and is for students ages 11-14. It is sponsored by the DEP's Youth Environmental Program, which has a current enrollment of about 820 youth groups representing close to 70,000 young members throughout the state.

About 200 campers are expected this year, said Diana Haid, youth program coordinator with the DEP.

Campers will attend



classes in the morning and afternoon in subjects such as hunter safety, fishing, recycling, wildlife, water study, archery, nature walks and canoeing.

On the final night, campers will do a litter sweep of the entire camp.

The final morning of camp will include an assembly, during which parents are invited.

Haid said she has encountered DEP employ-



Campers get instruction on canoeing from Art Shomo during a past Junior Conservation Camp at Cedar Lakes.

ees who attended the camp growing up.

"That makes you feel good that you have such a positive impact on these kids," Haid said.

Cost of the camp is \$150. For more information contact Haid at (304) 926-0499, ext.

1114 or email:

Diana.K.Haid@wv.gov.

Also, the West Virginia State Conservation Camp is scheduled June 15-20 at Camp Caesar in Cowen. For information contact Bradley Blaine (304) 368-2000, ext. 3731.



A Pratt Elementary student releases trout into Morris Creek.

DEP talks to students during fish stocking on Morris Creek

Representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection were on hand during a fish stocking on Morris Creek, near Montgomery, in early May.

About 25 students from Pratt Elementary raised close to 200 fingerling trout in their classrooms. The trout were donated by AEP, Trout Unlimited, Chesapeake Energy and the Morris Creek Watershed Association.

The DEP's Randall Pack and Jonathan Tyler, from Abandoned Mine Lands, and Alvan Gale, from Water Resources, attended the stocking and spoke to the students about the DEP's role in cleaning up the creek and controlling acid mine drainage.

"We talked about how bad the water used to be, how good it is now and how we accomplished that," Pack said.

Kermit awarded first ARRA-approved loan

Gov. Joe Manchin and Randy Huffman, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, announced the first loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund approved under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The loan for \$1,938,888 was closed May 5 for the town of Kermit to rehabilitate and expand the existing sewage collection system and build a new wastewater treatment plant. Because the town is classified as a disadvantaged community, the debt on the loan will be totally forgiven.

Kermit currently has a wastewater collection system that discharges raw sewage into the Tug Fork River and is under an order by the DEP to comply with state water quality standards and effluent limitations.

"I have often said

that every West Virginian deserves clean water to drink and a proper wastewater treatment system to protect the water in their communities," the governor said.

The new wastewater treatment plant will be a 50,000 gallon-per-day Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) plant with effluent discharge to the Tug Fork River and will serve approximately 342 residents in Mingo County. The contractor for the project is Breckenridge Corporation of Buckhannon, W.Va.

The total cost of the project is expected to be \$3,438,888, and the balance of the funding is being provided by a HUD-Small Cities Block Grant, which is administered by the West Virginia Development Office.

"The ARRA funds allow the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

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ARRA

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to reach out to even more West Virginia communities, like Kermit, to help them provide a service to residents, while at the same time addressing water quality concerns,” Huffman said.

The water quality in the Tug Fork River and health conditions will be improved as a result of this project. The project is expected to be completed in late 2010.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund is a funding program that has been addressing water quality issues through wastewater facility construction, upgrades or expansions for 18 years.

DEP addresses Rule 13 changes to Air Quality Standards

The DEP’s Air Quality Division conducted an air permit rule training session on May 4 to explain changes to Rule 13 of the state Air Quality Standards.

The changes, which go into effect in June, deal with reduced permitting timelines. In addition, a new program, called “Permission to Commence Construction,” will be available.

It allows a company to begin construction on a project before full approval of its 45CSR13 permit.

Other changes to Rule 13 allow equipment to be moved onto sites before the permitting process has been completed.

The DEP’s Beverly McKeone conducted the training session at the DEP headquarters.

DEP worker is on the lookout for litter

By Tom Aluise

Go ahead and call Greg Adolfson “Gladys Kravitz.”

A lot of people on his block have already compared Adolfson to



Adolfson

Samantha and Darrin Stephens’ nosy neighbor on the 1960s-70s sitcom, “Bewitched.” “It’s not that I’m nosy,” Adolfson said. “It’s

just that I care.”

An environmental resources program administrator with the DEP, Adolfson cares about keeping his East End neighborhood free of litter and is passionate about recycling whatever he can.

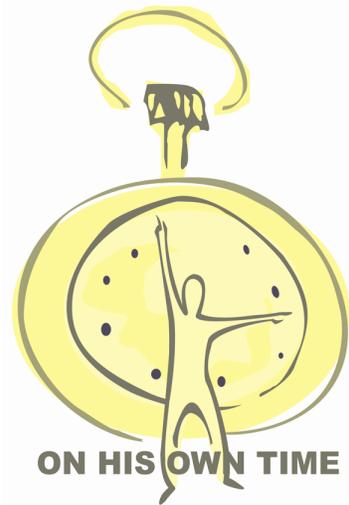
That’s why, once a month, the 16-year DEP employee takes a stroll around his home near the capitol and picks up just about anything and everything.

Adolfson’s litter sweeps normally cover his entire block, which is about two football fields long, as well as wide. There are seven streets in the mixed residential/office neighborhood.

“I’ve been doing this for two years,” said Adolfson.

And most of the time, he’s not alone. Adolfson usually is accompanied on his trash treks by his pit bull/basenji mix, Sarah, and a set of grabbers.

He sorts trash as he collects it, recyclables going in a clear plastic bag and contaminated items, such as household waste, going in a black bag. Adolfson normally fills about



three-quarters of his recyclables bag.

Adolfson’s quest for a litter-free neighborhood heightened his awareness for the need to recycle.

“Now it’s hard for me to make enough trash,” the Glenville native said. “I’ve gone from putting out the trash every week to putting it out every three weeks.”

Adolfson keeps several recycling bins in his garage that neighbors are free to use to dispose of glass, paper, plastic and cardboard. He makes a trip to the city’s recycling center on Slack Street every other month.

Gladys Kravitz jokes aside, Adolfson said most people who live near him are in full support of his efforts and often admit they should be doing more to protect the environment.

“I’ve had a few people say they really appreciate what I’m doing,” he said.

What are you doing on your time away from work to protect the environment? Send story ideas to:

Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov.

DEP white water rafting trip set for West Virginia Day

The DEP’s annual white water rafting trip is scheduled for West Virginia Day, June 20.

Rafters should be at the Class VI-Mountain River headquarters in Ames Heights by 9:30 a.m. DEP employees pay \$75 per person and any accompanying family members or guests also

pay \$75, which includes lunch. Employees can bring along as many people as they would like.

Generally, rafters must be at least 12 years old, although exceptions for younger rafters are occasionally made, depending on their size.

Eight people are permitted per raft.

For more information or to pay for the trip contact Aaron Thompson at 304-926-0499, ext. 1455.

More information, including directors to Class VI, also is available by going to www.class-vi.com or calling 1-800-252-7784. Thompson said the trip likely will be down the New River.



The Busy Bison 4-H Club, out of Marion County, takes part in the parade at West Virginia Youth Environmental Day.

Students shine on cloudy day

By Tom Aluise

Rain dampened the afternoon but not the spirits of hundreds of kids at the 46th annual West Virginia Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park in Ritchie County.

The event, sponsored by the DEP's Youth Environmental Program, attracted close to 750 participants, a number that probably would have reached one thousand had intermittent storms not clouded the afternoon.

"This is a culmination of a year's worth of work these kids have been doing," said Diana Haid, youth program coordinator with the DEP. "They've planted thousands of trees, recycled tons of aluminum cans and picked up tons of trash. These young people have the health of the environment at the forefront of their community activities."

Scout troops, 4-H clubs and school groups were all represented May 16. They wrote essays, made posters and participated in the annual parade that officially kicks off Environmental Day. After the parade, thousands of dollars worth of scholarships and prizes were awarded to groups and individuals for their efforts in protecting the environment.

"It was as much an honor to present the awards to these most-deserving winners as it was an honor for them to receive them," Haid said.

Prize categories included litter control, recycling, environmental education, watershed preservation and wildlife management. Sponsors included Toyota, West



Umbrellas and rain gear were in high demand as Environmental Day participants mingle before the parade. Right, DEP employees interact with the kids.

Virginia Forestry, the West Virginia Coal Association, Quad Graphics and the West Virginia Garden Club.

Randolph County's Katelyn Demyan was awarded the \$10,000 Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship. It is presented to an active Youth Environmental Program member with exemplary conduct during his/her school years. The scholarship is sponsored by the Vecellio Family Foundation, of Beckley.

Also this year, a memorial flower bed at North Bend was dedicated to the memory of Maxine Scarbro, who started Youth



Environmental Day in 1963 under the umbrella of the then Department of Natural Resources. Scarbro died on May 4 at the age of 81.

Every year, a youth group will plant flowers in the Maxine Scarbro Memorial Flower Bed. This year's inaugural planting was done by the Cross Roads 4-H Club, of Marion County.

Youth Environmental Day

Award winners



Youth Environmental Day participants displayed their posters for judges at North Bend State Park.

Randolph County girl wins Vecellio scholarship

Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship

Katelyn R. Demyan,
Lucky Leaf 4-H Rhododendron Club, Randolph County

W.Va. Forestlands & Wood Products Art Winners

Grades 3-5 – Ronnie Bonecutter III, Kountry Kritters 4-H Club, Mason County
Middle school – Cody Gallagher, Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County

Sustainable Forestry Art Poster Awards

Elementary school – Emily Keefer, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County
Middle school – Brianna Bartram, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County
High school – Elliston Lana Emrich, Pony Pals & Animal Lovers 4-H Club, Summers County

Maple Award (tree planting)

Mount Clare Mountaineers 4-H Club, Harrison County

Go-Mart Energy Essay
Bridgett Dudding, Cow Creek Hi Strivers 4-H Club, Putnam County

Bear Category Environmental Awards
Jersey Mountain Workers 4-H Club, Hampshire County

Litter Control Awards
Pond Creek Panthers 4-H Club, Wood County

Mountain Laurel Category Environmental Awards
Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County

Cardinal Art Poster Awards

Philip Tucker, Midway Meridians 4-H Club, Putnam County
Melissa Ashman, Girls Scout Troop 4988, Roane County

Rick Vecellio Memorial Art Poster Awards

Brianna Haga, Klover Kritters 4-H Club, Mason County
Kathy Jo Kirby, Golden

Stars 4-H Club, Mason County

Corey Tucker, Midway Meridians 4-H Club, Putnam County
Richard Haga, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County
Katherine Deem, Kountry Kritters 4-H Club, Mason County
Bayli Meighan, Cross Roads 4-H Club, Marion County
Cynthia Keefer, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County
Jonathan Martin, Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County
Amanda Mullins, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County
Jenna Luikart, Busy Buddies Cloverbuds, Mason County

Gov. Joe Manchin Beautification Awards

Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County

Keep West Virginia Beautiful Awards

Hinton Helping Helps 4-H Club, Summers County

Mountain State Awards of Excellence, Environmental projects

Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman Brook Trout Award

Belleville 4-H Cloverbuds, Wood County

Youth Environmental Hall of Fame Awards

Charlie Morrison, Buffalo Creek Dream Makers 4-H Club, Marion County
Kathleen McKee, Buffalo Creek Dream Makers 4-H Club, Marion County

Streams and Trails Awards

Roane-Jackson Technical FFA Chapter, Jackson County

Pepsi Cola District Awards

District 1 – Sandy Pal 4-H Club, Preston County
District 2 – Greensburg Go Getters 4-H Club,

See WINNERS, Page 13

Welcome aboard

Here is the list of employees hired by the Department of Environmental Protection since Dec. 1, 2008:

Division of Air Quality		Hire date
Name		
Rex Compston		Dec. 1
David Keatley		Dec. 1
Roy Kees		Dec. 1
Kevin Burkett		Dec. 15
Thomas Chandler		Dec. 15
Brittany Ireland		Dec. 17
Amanda Kramer		Feb. 17
Danielle Wentz		Feb. 23
Division of Mining and Reclamation		
James Harvey		Jan. 5
Kathleen McCoy		Jan. 6
Jordan Wilcox		Jan. 15
Zachary Boyce Serian		Jan. 15
Walter Neal		Feb. 2
Sandra Horton		Feb. 15
Mary Cross		March 1
Division of Water and Waste Management		
Jennifer Todd		Dec. 17
Conor Tompkins		Dec. 22
Candice Keasler		Jan. 5
Jessica Hunter		Feb. 15
Philip Pack		Feb. 23
Tommy Smith II		March 23
Division of Water and Waste Management, Office of Environmental Enforcement		
Erin DiBacco		Jan. 26
Matthew Alt		Feb. 2
Eric Philyaw		April 1
DLR, REAP		
Joshua Westbrook		April 13
DLR, Special Reclamation		
William Swan III		March 16
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands Program		
Christopher Shanesy		March 3
Office of Administration		
Kenna DeRaimo		Jan. 16
Nancy Frazier		Feb. 15
Jamie Gilbert		April 1
Stephanie Gist		April 16
Thomas Aluise		April 27
Office of Oil and Gas		
Bernardo Garcia		April 16



The Highland School Hawks Conservation Club from Ritchie County won the Gov. Joe Manchin Beautification Award during Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park.

WINNERS

Continued from Page 12

- Berkeley County
- District 3 – Horner Busy Bees 4-H Club, Lewis County
- District 4 – All 4 One 4-H Club, Fayette County
- District 5 – Letart Pioneers 4-H Club, Mason County
- District 6 – Cedarville Centurions 4-H Club, Gilmer County

Environmental Achievement Awards

Frankfort High School Green Team, Mineral County

Rhododendron Category Environmental Awards

Pony Pals and Animal Lovers 4-H Club, Summers County

Recycling Awards

Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County

Recycling Education and Awareness Awards

Frankfort High School Green Team, Mineral County

Environmental Education Awards

Wilsonburg New Horizons 4-H Club, Harrison County

Save Our Streams Award

Sandy Pals 4-H Club, Preston County

Kroger Plastic Recycling Awards

Midway Getters 4-H Club, Preston County

Wildlife Management Awards

Rebels 4-H Club, Wood County

Watershed Preservation Awards

Boy Scout Troop 250, Kanawha County

Adopt-A-Spot Awards

Schultz Ridge Runners 4-H Club, Pleasants County

North Bend Clean&Green Litter Awards

Cairo Climbers 4-H Club, Ritchie County

W.Va. State Parks Superintendents Association Awards

Beaver Creek Beavers 4-H Club, Pocahontas County

DEP discusses water quality standards

The Department of Environmental Protection’s triennial review of state water quality standards was discussed during a public meeting on May 18 at DEP headquarters.

Staff from the DEP’s Water Quality Standards program discussed criteria for iron, mercury, total dissolved solids and nutrients in the state’s waters.

The DEP’s Dave Montali said the state is considering increasing the limit of iron permitted in West Virginia’s trout streams to match the

level recommended by the EPA.

The DEP’s Mike Arcuri presented findings from an outside study on West Virginians’ fish consumption habits and how those findings might affect state limits on mercury found in fish tissue.

Also, the DEP’s Pat Campbell said the agency is examining the issue of total dissolved solids in water, particularly in relation to the disposal of frac water from oil and gas drilling in West Virginia.

DEP hands out honors

Employees of Month, Reward and Recognition

Seven Department of Environmental Protection employees were honored by the agency during a ceremony on May 21 in the packed Coopers Rock Conference Room.

Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman presented the Employee of the Month and Reward and Recognition awards.

February Employee of the Month

■ David Gilbert, environmental inspector, Office of Oil and Gas.

Along with the daily responsibility of heavy permit activities and workloads, Gilbert takes on challenges in resolving complaints and investigating human health and safety concerns and environmental impacts.

Huffman: “David excels in communication with the office staff, the supervising inspector, other officials, the public and industry representatives.”

March Employee of the Month

■ Ken Politan, ERPM II, Division of Mining and Reclamation.

Politan is the upmost authority for coal NPDES issues, including policies, legislative rules and/or procedures.

He is the go-to guy in charge of anything with respect to coal NPDES.

He also represents DMR on the Water Quality Standards Committee for rule-making and variances.

Huffman: “Ken produces service above and beyond what is expected, maintains exemplary work standards, presents a helpful and cooperative attitude and promotes the spirit of the agency.”

April Employee of the Month

■ Sandy Rogers, ERS 2, REAP, Division of Land Restoration.

Rogers became the primary contact and authority for the recycling assistance grants program after Program Manager Jim Hill retired.



DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman presents Employee of the Month awards to, from left, David Gilbert, Ken Politan, Sandy Rogers and Lori Derrick.



DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman presents Reward and Recognition certificates to, from left, Shannon Egnor, Michael Whitman and Debbie Hughes.

She assumed duties such as managing the review and acceptance of grant applications, facilitating the grant review committee meetings, addressing all grant inquiries, which includes approving budget modifications and bidding procedures, as well as monitoring the statewide office paper recycling contract on top of her regular ERS 2 duties.

Huffman: “Sandy’s tireless work ethic and dedication is an inspiration to us all.”

May Employee of the Month

■ Lori Derrick, environmental resource associate. In recent months, Derrick has been called upon to respond to a number of FOIA requests, and she always responds in a timely and sufficient manner.

The agency has received

ment.

Huffman: “Debbie is rewarded and recognized for her commitment and exemplary use of time and her superb work standards and dedication to her department.”

Reward and Recognition

■ Shannon Egnor, secretary 2, Legal Services.

The Office of Legal Services has been without a full complement of lawyers since 2007 and during that time, the volume of cases, advice, correspondence and paper processing has continued at its same or higher levels, putting additional workload on the support staff.

Huffman: “Shannon has been instrumental in processing this information in a timely fashion, keeping lawyers and paralegals on task and in the right place at the right time, while maintaining exemplary work standards.”

Reward and Recognition

■ Michael Whitman, environmental resource specialist III, Division of Water and Waste Management.

The Watershed Assessment Branch of DWWM collects stream water and biological samples statewide and has visited more than 39,000 sites in the past 10 years. As a result, a lot of data is produced and must be managed to use effectively.

Maintaining the database is no easy feat but Whitman has been able to do just that.

Whitman has made adjustments to the Watershed Assessment Branch Database (WABBASE) to accept new types of data and to perform complex calculations and assessments.

Huffman: “Mike has increased productivity and significantly improved and created new processes within DWWM, making him a well-deserving recipient for a Reward and Recognition Award.”

several comments about how helpful she is and what a great representative she is for DEP. Derrick also has helped the permitting section with transferring thousands of documents from the current database into the new eCabinet to allow easier public access to information about permits.

Huffman: “Lori always presents a helpful and cooperative attitude while promoting a positive image of DEP.”

Reward and Recognition

■ Debbie Hughes, ASM I, Human Resources.

Hughes took on the management of the classification/recruitment section of Human Resources in September 2008.

She has kept up with many of the duties of her old position, while also helping the HR manager interview for her replace-