

DEP interns have big dreams

By Colleen O'Neill

Two interns working in the DEP's Office of Explosives and Blasting this summer have aspirations of changing the face of blasting.

"I'd like to do research and introduce new technology in blasting operations to make them more effective," said Destiny Kerby, 20, who's the daughter of an ammunition and explosives expert with the Marines.

Kerby recently graduated with honors from the Blasting Technology program at Bridgemont Community and Technical College in Montgomery.

Sumer Cooper, who's working alongside Kerby as an intern in the OEB, hopes to pursue a career in blasting as well.

"Blasting is typically a



Sumer Cooper, left, and Destiny Kerby have been spending time in the field this summer as interns for the Office of Explosives and Blasting. Both are interested in blasting careers.

man's field, and I'd like to be one of the first, if not the first, female blasters in West Virginia," said the 24-

year-old Cooper, who comes from a family of three children, of which she is the oldest.

"For me, being the

oldest gives me a sort of drive to want to do my best in life and make

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Corporate Cup champs ... again

Hoisting the Corporate Cup championship trophy is old habit for the Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP wrapped up its 11th consecutive CC title in Division III earlier this summer. Division III includes organizations with more than 301 employees. The DEP scored 135 points to second-place CAMC's 152 points. CAMC has more than 8,000 employees. Several DEP team members attended the post-CC banquet at the Civic Center. Pictured above from left are: team Captain Dan Roberts, Mike Egnor, Misty Nichols, Jay Fedczak, Scott Fairchild and Matt Sweeney.

Photographing camp is her labor of love

By Colleen O'Neill

Jennifer Pauer has been taking photos at Junior Conservation Camp for a long time, just not always in an official capacity.

"I began taking photos my first year (volunteering) at camp in 1994," said Pauer, of the Division of Water and Waste Management. "I was not the official photographer, but I had a camera and liked to take photos. So, I spent my limited free time at camp running around, getting photos to help the photographer."

Back then, little did Pauer know that one day the job of camp photographer would be exclusively her's (See Pauer's photos from this year's camp on page 4).

"Each year, Jen takes photos of all the camp activities, including classes, sports,



Pauer

See **CAMP**, Page 3

He's got water on the mind ...

Jason Harmon is an environmental resource analyst in the Division of Water and Waste Management.

He is responsible for evaluating and approving water management plans



Harmon

included in well work permits for horizontal oil and gas wells that use large volumes of water in the drilling process.

A Princeton native who earned a Ph.D., Harmon has been with the DEP for about 18 months. He lives with his wife and 8-month-old daughter, Hattie Marie, in Beckley.

1. What is your doctorate in and should we call you Dr. Harmon?

I received my Ph.D. in organic chemistry. My thesis title was "Computational and Spectroscopic Structural Determination of Lithiated Benzylic Nitrile Structure in THF/HMPA Solution."

It's more interesting than it sounds, or at least that's what I tell myself. And as for calling me Dr. Harmon?



With Jason Harmon

Let's just stick with Jason for now.

2. How is the drilling industry adapting to the requirements of the state's Water Management Plan?

Water Management Plans require the industry to plan ahead where water sourcing is concerned.

Whether they intend to purchase all their water for hydraulic fracturing or withdraw it from a nearby stream, operators have to think about it in advance.

Over the past nine months, we have started seeing operators include contingency plans as part of their water management strategy. Instead of a "get it wherever we can" approach to water acquisition, we can clearly see a Plan A, B, or even C.

This planning leads to a greater sense of

environmental responsibility.

3. How does West Virginia's new regulations on water use compare to those in other drilling-intensive states?

I think our Water Management Plan program compares very favorably to other states in similar situations. Basically, we all approach the issue of responsible sourcing in much the same way. We evaluate a proposed withdrawal against a threshold we consider environmentally protective. Functionally there's a lot more detail behind the scenes which makes our program unique among those states, but the basic concept is the same.

4. What is the most important part of our Water Management Plan?

The linchpin for our entire Water Management Plan program is the setting of safe withdrawal limits for our state's streams and rivers. Going forward, our key challenge is the continued re-evaluation of these limits to ensure we are doing all we can

to protect aquatic life and the environment in general.

5. In your current position, do you find yourself casting a more curious eye toward our streams and rivers as you drive throughout the state?

No matter where I am, every time I cross a bridge I try to catch a glimpse at the water level. I think that stems from a heightened awareness of our dependence on limited water resources, particularly with the dry conditions we've experienced this summer.

6. When you see a tanker truck hauling water, do you instinctively wonder where the water came from?

It's hard not to. Whenever I see a tanker truck on the highway, I start running through a mental inventory of nearby approved water withdrawal sites.

7. Typically, how long does it take to review one Water Management Plan?

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Ex-DEP biologist releases first book

By Tom Aluise

Occasionally, people talk about "getting around to that book I've always wanted to publish" as they map out life after retirement. Few, however, actually realize that dream.



Fala

Bob Fala is an exception. In July, the former Department of Environmental Protection biologist published his first book, "Ramblin' Outdoors — A Favorite Selection of Wildlife Stories from the Woods and Waters."

"It was one of those things I was kicking around and never got to do it until I retired," said Fala, who wrapped up his career in the Division of Mining and Reclamation in October, 2011.

The 186-page paperback is a compilation of 39 outdoor columns Fala has written, mostly over the past 25 years, for various publications, including Pennsylvania Game News, Quail Unlimited, West Virginia Game & Fish, Wonderful West Virginia and the Logan Banner.

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BOOK

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There are a few previously unpublished columns in the book. "I picked out some of my favorites and what I thought would be interesting to the public," Fala said. "I tried to get varied columns in there about deer, bear, turkey, grouse ... stuff I thought was still interesting."

The book was printed by McClain Printing Co., out of Parsons, W.Va. Currently there are 2,500 copies in print. "Ramblin' Outdoors" retails for \$19.95 and can be purchased through McClain Printing's Web site or on Amazon.com. Several of West Virginia's state



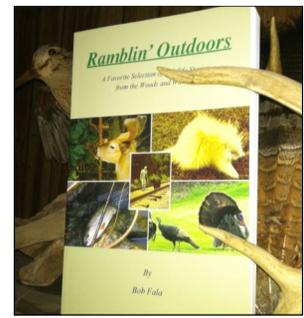
Retired DEP biologist Bob Fala continues to write weekly outdoors columns for the Logan Banner and is working on his second book, based on his bird hunting journals from the past 15 years. Fala lives in Chapmanville.

parks are also selling copies and two groups — the Logan Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge — are selling the book

as a fundraiser.

"I'd like to see a lot of non-profit groups get some proceeds from this book," Fala said. "That's just getting going now.

"And I'm working on



getting the book into some book stores. One way or another, I've probably gotten 400 copies out there already," Fala said.

Fala is still writing regular columns for the Logan Banner and already is working on a second book based on his bird hunting journals from the past 15 years.

"It won't be out for another year," Fala said.

CAMP

Continued from Page 1

campfire programs, and assemblies, taking great care not to leave out one single camper," said longtime camp Director Diana Haid, who directs the Department of Environmental Protection's Youth Environmental Program.

"Jennifer does an excellent job of capturing the kids in action, such as diving into the pool, shooting bows, and catching bugs on the nature trail," Haid said.

Many of the those photos show up in the annual Pauer-produced slide presentation, which is shown to the 200 or so campers at the conclusion of camp.

The slides are a way of

showing the campers' parents just what their children did away from home for a week, Haid said.

"Because of Jennifer's ability to communicate the camp experience through her photography, the slide show keeps the campers wanting to come back year after year," Haid said.

"When I hear and see the campers' reactions to seeing themselves and their friends, it tells me that they had a great time," Haid said.

"More so, the reactions I receive from the parents let me know they are glad their child was indeed a part of something special that will stay with them throughout their lives."

"We show the previous year's show the

first night of camp, so they know what is going on," Pauer said. "And everyone starts jumping in front of the camera. Everyone wants to be in the show and it is hard because some of the shy kids don't get in on the action."

Of course, today's technology has made Pauer's life a lot easier at camp.

In 1994, she was still dealing with prints and slides.

"At that point, it was slides, so we had to rush around and get photos of all the classes, so on Thursday morning they could be taken to the one-hour photo developing company," Pauer said. "With that system, our good quality photos were limited. These days with digital photography,

I get a lot of good photos.

"The kids get a chuckle out of the action photos," Pauer said.

"Again with the digital photography, you can catch people in the air on the basketball court or going off the diving board.

"I like candid photos, but sometimes the poses are OK, too," Pauer said. "The idea is to show the entire camp experience. The 'friends' photos are a part of that, so, I do slide in a few just big smiling faces photos."

Pauer has been taking pictures since she was young.

"My dad taught me it is all about the lighting and that is the truth," she said. "Just because the activity is going on does not mean you will get a good photo."

Great Kanawha River Cleanup set for Sept. 8

The annual Great Kanawha River Cleanup is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 8 at various locations along the river in Kanawha, Fayette and Putnam counties.

The event is sponsored by the DEP's REAP program.

Cleanup sites will include Magic Island in Charleston, along with locations in Gauley Bridge, St. Albans and Winfield.

For more information contact REAP's Travis Cooper at 1-800-322-5530 or email: Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov.

DEP retirements

Sandy Kee

Administration

Last day: July 31, 2012

Years of service: 38

Bob Coontz

Division of Water and Waste Management

Last day: July 31, 2012

Years of service: 31

Scenes from camp



*Junior
Conservation
Camp photos by
Jennifer Pauer*

Captain keeps the pieces together

By Colleen O'Neill

Team captain Dan Roberts is quick to deflect from himself any credit for the DEP's string of 11 straight Corporate Cup championships.

"The credit should go to the (Corporate Cup) committee," said Roberts, who has served as captain since 2007, succeeding Mike Arcuri. "The DEP has been so successful because it is a team competition and we work really well together as a team. The DEP Corporate Cup Committee is at the heart of it all."

The CC Committee is responsible for planning, recruiting and fundraising for the annual CC competition.

Still, it is Roberts who



Roberts

puts in about 45 hours of time outside the office and away from his family during the three-week CC competition to make sure everything is running smoothly with the DEP's team. He also sends out periodic notices to team members during the competition and keeps everyone informed about results and schedule changes.

"I try to attend all the events I can," said Roberts. "I participate in the softball and volleyball tournaments, and then I'll go to the store and get drinks, fruit, snacks for the DEP team."

CC photos, team results, Page 6

"I believe that I get much more out of it than what I put in," he said. "Everyone works together to achieve a common goal. You share a comradery. I get to meet people I might not otherwise meet. I have made a lot of great friends through Corporate Cup."

Roberts began at the DEP in 1995 as an engineer with the Division of Air Quality. He joined the DEP's Corporate Cup softball and volleyball teams in 1996, and enlisted with the committee in 1997.

"At that time, the DEP was spread out," Roberts said. "They were looking

to get someone from Air Quality on the committee. To this day, I'm still involved."

Roberts also serves on the YMCA Corporate Cup Committee — just another responsibility on his list.

"It consists of a limited number of company representatives," Roberts said. "We meet at least once a month for one to two hours in the evening to discuss the past year's competition and plan for the next year's competition. Corporate Cup has become a year-round commitment for me."

Still, Roberts is quick to praise the DEP's CC Committee members and its individual event captains.

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Adopt-A-Highway honors its volunteers

By Colleen O'Neill

Numbers were up for this year's Adopt-A-Highway statewide cleanup, sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection.

"This year, more people volunteered to help clean up highways and other state roadways," said Sherry Thaxton, the state Adopt-A-Highway coordinator.

"It's refreshing to see more young adults



Bill Johnson, from Cabell County, was honored at this year's AAH appreciation picnic as the AAH Volunteer of the Year. Johnson, center, is pictured with Eugene Tuckwiller, AAH statewide coordinator for the DOH and Sherry Thaxton, the DEP's AAH coordinator.

pitching in to help. By helping, these young

people are contributing to making the state

cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful."

This year's AAH spring cleanup was

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Herd stars visit

Marshall football standouts Aaron Dobson (left) and Devin Arrington stopped by DEP headquarters on Aug. 3 to sign autographs and meet with fans.

The Herd players' appearance was part of Marshall's "Get in Company with the Herd" campaign.

Dobson, Marshall's top receiver, is best known for his acrobatic, one-handed TD reception in a victory over East Carolina last year.





Kevin Coyne gives the ready signal during soccer shootout action.

Thank heaven for 11

No Corporate Cup team in Division III has won more than four championships. Well, except for the DEP, which won its 11th consecutive title this year. The DEP beat second-place CAMC by 33 points in a Corporate Cup competition shortened by the heavy storms of June 29.



David Keatley drives a kick toward the back of the net.



The softball team set the tone for Cup competition.



Left, Haylie Ballard is locked in on a pitch during softball competition at the North Charleston Rec Center. Right, Leslie Oaks helps lead the DEP to first place in the soccer shootout at the Charleston YMCA.

Cup results

A list of Corporate Cup events in which DEP placed and who participated:

- Horseshoes** — 1st Place (Paul Frantz, Jean Sheppard).
- Billiards** — 3rd Place (Margie Skeens, Paul Ludwig).
- Bowling** — 4th Place (Rose Brodersen, Lewis Halstead, Dan Roberts, Joni White).
- Putt Putt** — 3rd Place

(Jay Fedczak, Rebecca Johnson).

Volleyball — 2nd Place (Haylie Ballard, Kevin Coyne, Chris Daugherty, Scott Fairchild, Zach Griffith, Scott Norman, Dan Roberts, Jean Sheppard, Sherry Thaxton).

Tennis — 2nd Place (Lisa McClung, Nick Estes).

Darts — 3rd Place (Chuck Scruggs, Annette Hoskins).

Hoop Shoot — 3rd Place (Tom Aluise, Jennifer Bannister, Jay Fedczak, Margie Skeens).

Closest to the Pin Men — 4th Place (Jay Fedczak).

Closest to the Pin Women — 3rd Place Tie (Debbie Peters, Jennifer Bannister).

Table Tennis Women — 2nd Place (Misty Nichols).

Table Tennis Men — 4th Place (Yoseph Gebrelibanos)

Combined Age Swim Relay — 4th Place (Zach Griffith, Amy Molgaard, Susan Rose, John Wirts).

Medley Swim Relay — 2nd Place — (Ashley Carroll, John Wirts).

Soccer — 1st Place (Kevin Coyne, David Keatley, Julie Leslie, Leslie Oaks).

Punt, Pass & Kick Men — 6th Place (Scott Norman).

Punt, Pass & Kick Women — 1st Place (Margie Skeens).

Final team standings — DEP 185; CAMC 152; United Bank 131; Frontier 108; WV Department of Transportation 108; DuPont 105; McJunkin Redman 104; DOW 104; CASCI 78; Genesis Healthcare 73; Health-Smart Benefits 71; Charleston Newspapers 68; WV Insurance Commission 37; City of Charleston 23; BB&T 22; TRG Customer Sol. 7.

INTERNS

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something of myself to set good examples for my brother and sister.”

Cooper is a student in Bridgemont’s blasting program.

“I grew up around construction because that’s my dad’s line of work. I’ve always found it interesting, especially blasting,” Cooper said. “When I was deciding to go back to school, I ran across Bridgemont’s Web site and found the blasting program. I thought to myself, ‘How cool would that be to know how to blow things up for a living?’”

Both Cooper and Kerby saw blasting as a challenge.

“It’s typically thought of as a man’s field because of the labor involved in preparing the shot,” Kerby said. “It can be an extremely physically demanding job, especially when you think about working out in the weather when it’s raining, or the snow is past your ankles.”

When it was time to get an internship, both women knew the OEB was the way to go. Kerby likes the variety blasting has to offer, and she likes not having to sit behind a desk all day.

“There are the days in the office, where I do whatever anyone needs help with, anything from taking the mail to the mail room to packing up seismographs to be sent off for calibration, or inputting blast log data in Excel,” Kerby said.

“When I’m out in the field, I’m meeting new people, which is something I love, and usually checking seismographs.”

Cooper saw this internship as a way to further her love of blasting and better equip her for a possible career as a blaster.

“I’ve gained a lot of knowledge of seismographs, more of a better understanding of them — how to download the information, reset, and how to properly install,” Cooper said. “I have also been out in the field on the mine sites, which is a great experience.”

Kerby’s aspirations for the future are worldly.

“I’d like to move to Sweden,” she said. “I have

DEP Interns

A list of interns for the summer of 2012:

Justin Adams	DMR
Gwen Brand	DLR
Chelsea Carr	DMR
Nathan Carte	DMR
Kelly Cochran	DWWM
Sumer Cooper	DMR
Zachary Griffith	DAQ
Matthew Harman	DAQ
Travis Howard	DMR
Cody Howdyshell	DMR
Brianne Huddleston	DMR
Brittany Ireland	DAQ
Destiny Kerby	DMR
Julie Leslie	DMR
Kimberly Lyons	DWWM
Cory Mays	DLR
Lauren Norris	DLR
Jenna Palmer-Kelly	DWWM
Sarah Phipps	DMR
Kady Rogers	DWWM
David Scarr	DMR
Nathan Settle	DAQ
Kaitlyn Shamblin	DMR
Whitney Sowards	DMR
Paige Sturm	DMR

friends over there and from what they’ve told me and what I’ve researched, I would really enjoy living there.”

Cooper plans on building her life in West Virginia.

“A lot of people my age can’t wait to get out of this state, but most who do, end up back,” Cooper said.

“For me personally, this is my home. This is where I want to end up, whether I have to work out of state or not for a while during my career.”

CAPTAIN

Continued from Page 5

“Matt Sweeney has been organizing the track and field team since 2000,” Roberts said.

“He recruits people, goes to the track with them, times them and then figures out who will run in which events. Matt really deserves a lot of credit for the time and effort he devotes to the team on top of the time and effort he spends training to compete himself. He always pulls together a great track and field team.

“But really all of the event captains need to be acknowledged and thanked,” Roberts said. “They volunteer their time and effort.

“My job of being the DEP team captain goes smoother because everyone works together. I think our record of winning 11 straight championships confirms that.”

The Corporate Cup Committee currently consists of the following members:

Rose Brodersen, Maureen Clemons, Annette Hoskins, Misty Nichols, Greg Null, Tonya Phillips, Dan Roberts, Margie Skeens, Megan Smith, Ken Stevens, Matt Sweeney, Sherry Thaxton, and Mike Warwick. Those interested in becoming involved with the committee can contact Roberts at ext. 1210, or Daniel.P.Roberts@wv.gov.

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Barbara Moore, DMR
- ▶ Michael Rose, DMR
- ▶ Shannon Savage, DMR
- ▶ Andrew Stout, DLR
- ▶ Jacqualin Thornton, OOG
- ▶ Laura Cooper, OOG
- ▶ Megan Diehl, OA
- ▶ Timothy Keller, DWWM
- ▶ Greigory Paetzold, DWWM
- ▶ Danielle Stephenson, DWWM
- ▶ Candice Stone, DLR
- ▶ Susan Wheeler, OA

Employees of the Month



Sandy Kee — June EOM

Human Resources, Charleston

- Kee, who retired in July with 38 years of service to the state, was a help to many DEP employees at one time or another. She was described as a good listener, fair, a good mentor and motivator, and devoted to her duties and responsibilities.

- Due to her love for education, she was a strong supporter of the Educational Reimbursement Program for employees and constantly encouraged employees to increase their education in order to serve the agency and the public well.

- She was also a strong supporter of the DEP's Wellness Program, and she voluntarily led an aerobics class for DEP employees on her lunch hour. She encouraged all employees to take care of their physical and mental well-being.



Marvin Journell — July EOM

DMR, Logan

- Journell was hired in the Division of Mining and Reclamation's Logan office during the dawn of the implementation of anti-degradation and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) into the mining program.

- He willingly accepted these challenges and has become one of the most dependable permit writers in DMR.

- He often helps others, including both his co-workers and those in the industry, to understand the many complicated issues within the NPDES water permitting program.

- He is the leading DMR permit writer for the state, having written nearly twice as many permits than any other permit writer in DMR.

Reward and Recognition



Chris Daugherty

DWWM, Charleston

- Every two years, the Division of Water and Waste Management is responsible for generating a report required by EPA, detailing the general water quality within the state and to list water bodies not achieving water quality standards.

- Through the efforts of Daugherty, the data collected by DEP and other organizations is organized and assessed to provide an overall description of water quality within the state.

- Daugherty is responsible for compiling data from various databases within DEP for DWWM's TMDL development efforts.

- She also shares responsibility for development and maintenance of several Web pages for Watershed Assessment and other sections of DWWM. She is a tireless worker and can be relied upon to work additional hours when necessary to meet critical deadlines.



John Loughry

DLR, Philippi

- Loughry, who works for the Division of Land Restoration, is always ready to meet any new task or challenge put in front of him and does so with energy and enthusiasm.

- He is constantly working to improve treatment systems and techniques to ensure that acid mine drainage water is being treated effectively and efficiently.

- In addition to his daily activities, Loughry is also assisting a local watershed group, Friends of the Cheat, with experimental treatment on Fickey Run, a tributary of the Cheat River.

- He also gives tours of our most challenging treatment sites to high school and college students.

Annual Children's Water Festival is moving to Capitol

The annual Project WET Children's Water Festival is scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., on Friday, Sept. 14, at the state Capitol.

The event will be conducted around the fountain on the Capitol's north side. Some of the activities will focus on identifying bugs and their importance; how flooding occurs and how pollution affects a watershed; and the stages of the water cycle.

Close to 240 fifth-graders from different Kanawha County elementary schools are expected. Those schools include Belle, Bridgeview, Alum Creek and Andrew Heights.

The fall Water Festival has been conducted in the past at Marshall University's South Charleston campus.

"The big reason for the change in location is to provide the opportunity for an exceptional outdoor event," said Tomi Bergstrom, the DEP's Western Watershed basin coordinator.

Bergstrom is working with Project WET Coordinator Kim Maxwell on organizing the Water Festival.

"The festival emphasizes hands-on water education, which works well in a wide-open, outdoor area," Bergstrom said. "The students will have the chance to run beneath the trees, splash water freely, and learn in an outdoor classroom for the day. We are happy to have the Capitol Building in case of extreme inclement weather, but we really hope to have the entire Water Festival in the space in front of the golden dome."

Safety Committee

Beating the heat

► **Heat stroke**, the most serious form of heat-related illness, happens when the body becomes unable to regulate its core temperature.

Sweating stops and the body can no longer rid itself of excess heat. Signs include confusion, loss of consciousness, and seizures. Heat stroke



is a medical emergency that may result in death. Call 911 immediately. While waiting for help, tips include placing the victim in a shady, cool area; loosening clothing; and providing fluids, preferably water.

► **Heat exhaustion** is the body's response to loss of water and salt from heavy sweating. Signs include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, irritability, thirst, and heavy sweating. Have the victim sit or lie down in a cool, shady area and provide plenty of water or other cool beverages. The victim should not return to work that day.

► **Heat cramps** are caused by the loss of body salts and fluid during sweating. Tired muscles are usually the ones most affected by cramps. Cramps may occur during or after working hours. Have victim rest in shady, cool area and drink water or other cool beverages. The victim should wait a few hours before returning to work.

► **Heat rash**, also known as prickly heat, is skin irritation caused by sweat that does not evaporate from the skin. Heat rash is the most common problem in hot work environments.

— From OSHA



AML project wins ARRI award

The 2011 Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative presented an Excellence in Reforestation Award to Eastern Arrow Corp., for its efforts utilizing the Forestry Reclamation Approach on the Pendleton Creek Strip AML Project, located in Tucker County. The award was presented to Eastern President Ann Wardwell (above). The scope of the project was to eliminate abandoned highwalls, dewater four impoundments, construct mine seals (dry), reconstruct two stream channels and establish forest and riparian vegetation. The DEP's Kevin Quick (left) and Jim Baczuk are pictured with Wardwell.

HONORS

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conducted on April 28. It involved 481 groups and was made up of more than 4,600 volunteers.

To thank its volunteers, the AAH program staged its annual appreciation picnic on Aug. 4 at Tamarack in Beckley.



Awards for 10, 15, and 20 years of service were handed out, along with other awards. Bill Johnson, of Cabell County, was named Volunteer of the Year. Other honors went to the

Bufflick Good Neighbors Group, of Kanawha County, for most litter collected (50,050 pounds) and to Cox and Cox, of Ritchie County, for most active group (66 total cleanups).

The McDowell County Visitors and Veterans Center was honored for most litter collected since the 2011 picnic (7,140 pounds), while Johnson was honored as having the most active group since the 2011 picnic (11 total cleanups).

Solar Project

Comes to life on DEP roof



► Workers began the process of installing 108 solar panels and a solar thermal hot water system on the DEP headquarters' roof on July 9. Mountain View Solar & Wind, from Berkeley Springs, was contracted for the pilot project, being funded with federal stimulus dollars. The DEP is the first state government agency building with solar panels.

Photos by Mike Huff

WATER

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Reviewing a single plan from start to finish usually doesn't take very long — probably three or four hours for very complicated cases.

The relatively quick processing time is possible only because of the hard work that went into creating our program at inception. The entire Water Use Section really pulled together to design (and continues to maintain) a

program that allows for rapid review of water management plans. Since Dec. 1, 2011, we have reviewed and approved over 600 unique water management plans for horizontal well work permit applications and centralized impoundments.

8. What's on the light reading list for a guy with a Ph.D. in chemistry?

Right now I'm sort of reading "11/23/63" by

Stephen King and a few random magazines.

Before my daughter was born, I would often have two or three books going simultaneously. Now I'm lucky to get two or three pages read before I fall asleep at night.

9. What did you know about the Marcellus Shale before you started at the DEP?

Essentially nothing. I was familiar with hydraulic fracturing compositions due to my

previous work in the patent industry, but the first time I heard the term "Marcellus" I thought someone was making a reference to the movie "Pulp Fiction."

10. Being a new dad, what would you say is more difficult, reviewing a Water Management Plan or changing a dirty diaper?

Let's just say each brings with it the possibility for some very sticky situations and leave it at that.