

YOUTH DAY

The 48th annual West Virginia Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park drew close to 1,000 environmentally conscious young people from across the state.

Sponsored by the DEP's Youth Environmental Program, Youth Day is intended to recognize the efforts of the state's young people in community environmental projects.

Awards totaling more than \$11,000 were handed out to youth groups and individuals for projects such as litter cleanups, recycling drives and watershed protection.

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Rusty Joins, of the Department of Environmental Protection's Homeland Security and Emergency Response unit, stands out among the crowd during Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park.

New deputy directors settle in

Campbell wants to keep DWWM in loop

By Colleen O'Neill

Pat Campbell has met the challenges of being the Division of Water and Waste Management's deputy director head on.



Campbell

Named to the position in March by DWWM Director Scott Mandirola, Campbell is still doing parts of his old job — he's the former head of the DWWM's Watershed Assessment Branch — while tackling his new tasks as the division's deputy director, a job formerly held by

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Ward says DMR must be diligent amid challenges

By Tom Aluise

Harold Ward has several goals in his new position as Deputy Director of Operations for the Division of Mining and Reclamation.

In the meantime, the former inspector and supervisor out of the DMR's Logan office said he'll stay plenty busy helping the division achieve its core mission.

"For now, I think our most critical challenge is



Ward

to continue responsibly regulating the mining industry in a manner that protects the citizens and the environment," said Ward, who was named to his position in March by DMR Director Tom Clarke. "With all the challenges that the mining industry

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CAMPBELL

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Bill Brannon.

“The challenge of the new position is complicated by my continuing to temporarily work parts of my previous position,” Campbell said. “There are so many areas I would like to engage in. I’m struggling to find the time to do both.”

Among Campbell’s new responsibilities are parts of Project WET, the Water Use Program and Clean Water Act Section 401 certifications. The Watershed Assessment Branch was under his direction for 15 years.

“The Watershed Assessment program grew into doing water quality monitoring, 303(d) listing, and Total Maximum Daily Load development for the state,” Campbell said. “I’ve managed that program since 1996 and worked with a really talented and dedicated group of people.”

Campbell’s state government experience goes back to 1989, when he joined the Division of Natural Resources’ Office of Water Resources.

“I started in Water on Greenbrier Street in 1989,” Campbell said. “Everyone had left the fledgling Groundwater program at that time. So, when I started I was a one-person program.”

Today, Groundwater has six employees and Campbell has moved on.

“I’m a career DEP employee,” said Campbell, whose wife, Melinda, works in Human Resources for the DEP. “Scott Mandirola is a natural at being director and is very dedicated, but there is only so much one person can do. I want to help him wherever I can.”

Campbell sees part of his new role as keeping the DWWM connected with other divisions inside the agency, as well as with those outside the DEP.

“Water programs are numerous and we touch so many aspects of the DEP that a big part of my role will be to keep us coordinated and in the loop, inside and outside of the agency,” Campbell said.

“We work with Air, Mining, Abandoned Mine Lands, Special Reclamation, Oil and Gas, educators, the Division of Natural Resources, the divisions of Health, Forestry, Agriculture — the list goes on and on.

“State government and the DEP are responsible for many positive actions. My role will be to help ensure we keep doing all we can to improve water quality, and the quality of life for West Virginians.”

Another challenge will be replacing the decades of experience lost as more and more veteran DWWM employees retire. Campbell wants to ensure that the DWWM meets its program commitments and the best way to do that is making sure the right people are on staff.

“I’m a big believer in having the right people in the right positions; positions where people enjoy the work and they are good at it,” Campbell said.

“Some people are great technically, some are great people persons. Finding where people perform their best, and most comfortably makes us naturally more productive.

“We can’t make every situation perfect, but continually looking for the right fit, I think is important.”

Karst conference set for September

The combined Growing Communities on Karst Conference and Great Valley Water Resources Science Forum is scheduled for Sept. 12-14 at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown.

The Department of Environmental Protection is among the sponsors for the event, which will include a field trip on Monday, Sept. 12, to the Capitol Cement Quarry.

Other sponsors are the Potomac Headwaters RC&D, the U.S. Geological Survey and the state Department of Health and Human Resources.

For more information contact Olga Adams, Potomac Headwaters RC&D, at 304-267-8953, ext. 113 or email: phrcd.6003@frontier.com.

Corporate Cup kicks off on July 8

The Charleston YMCA’s 26th annual Corporate Cup Competition begins on July 8 and runs through July 23.

The Department of Environmental Protection will be vying for its 10th consecutive championship in Division III.

Members of the DEP’s 50-person roster receive a DEP team shirt and a YMCA pass valid from July 1-31. By showing the pass and presenting an ID at the YMCA, you are entitled to use the health and fitness center, participate in Fit for Life classes, play raquetball and basketball or use the pool and/or sauna.

Below is a schedule of events.:

- July 8-10 — Softball
- July 9 — Horseshoes
- July 12 — Billiards
- July 13 — Bowling
- July 14 — Putt Putt
- July 17 — Volleyball
- July 17 — Tennis
- July 18 — Darts
- July 19 — Swimming
- July 20 — Closest to Pin
- July 20 — Table tennis
- July 21 — Cornhole
- July 21 — Hoop shoot
- July 23 — Track and field



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The Charleston cleanup crew gets ready to embark on a litter sweep around DEP headquarters.

TIDYING UP THE OFFICE

Department of Environmental Protection employees took an active role in this spring's DEP-sponsored Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Employees from Oak Hill and the Kanawha City headquarters each worked a day outside of their respective offices picking up roadside litter.

Together, the two groups worked four hours and collected nearly 80 bags of trash.

Both DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman and Deputy Cabinet Secretary Lisa McClung participated in the cleanup.

Other Charleston employees who volunteered included Greg Rote, Lynn Dunlap, Travis Cooper, Nathan Walker, Kim Waybright, Patrick Burch, David Keatley, Doug Hammell, Tricia Sizemore, Carol Daub, Laura Jennings, Ed Hamrick, Kathy Cosco, Niki Davis, Lisa Facemyer, Sandy Rogers, Jeanne Chandler, Stephanie Hammonds, Jay Fedczak, Sherry Thaxton, Chris Cartwright and Danny Haught.



Oak Hill's cleanup crew included (from left), Mike Mertz, Bob Price, Greg Demyan, Rick Pino, Lynn Calhoun, Dave Chaney and Forrest Jones. Not visible in the photo are Alyce Lee and Tina White.

State response overwhelms coordinator

By Colleen O'Neill

Sherry Oldaker-Thaxton's thoughts on the first Adopt-A-Highway Statewide Cleanup with her in charge centered on pleasant surprise. Oldaker-Thaxton never expected the large number of volunteers who wanted to help this spring.



Thaxton

"We mailed out the postcards asking volunteers to call in and/or email us with the date of their cleanup and the number of volunteers they would have," said Oldaker-Thaxton, who

took over as the AAH coordinator in March. "Within two days, our phones were ringing off the hook.

"I was overwhelmed by their response. We had a lot more volunteers register than I thought we would have."

One thing Oldaker-Thaxton plans to do is travel around the state, see the area, and meet the volunteers. She has gone out, but because of the vast number of volunteers and the numerous areas, she didn't get to meet many

See RESPONSE, Page 4

Director inspired by MIS volunteers

By Colleen O'Neill

As the Make-It-Shine program grows in volunteers, so does its coordinator in his appreciation of West Virginia and its citizens.

"The number of volunteers for this year's statewide cleanup is the most we have had in my four years of being



Cooper

with the program," said Travis Cooper, coordinator of the state's MIS

program. "More than 3,800 volunteers donated nearly 11,000 hours of their time for the benefit of our state and their local communities."

Volunteers collected 248,024 pounds of trash, including close to 200 discarded applicances and 3,376 tires.

The cleanup also brought order to 119 miles of roadway, 144 miles of stream, 2,241 acres of park, and 36 dumpsites.

"The MIS Statewide Cleanup has a very dedicated and reliable volunteer base," Cooper said.

"We have some groups that are receiving awards this year for 10 years of participation.

"It's been eye-opening to witness, first-hand, how citizens are willing to step up."

MIS has three events, beginning with the statewide cleanup in April. There's also the Ohio River Sweep, which was held June 18, and September's Great Kanawha River Cleanup.

RESPONSE

Continued from Page 3

volunteers.

“Since we have cleanups in the spring and fall of every year, I plan to venture out and go to different areas throughout the state and would like to try and meet them all someday,” Oldaker-Thaxton said.

“All of the volunteers who I met were very passionate about cleaning up the litter in and around their homes. It was nice to see that there are, in fact, folks who are passionate about making this state litter free.”

Over 6,000 volunteers participated in this year’s AAH program and cleaned up more than 1,000 miles of West Virginia roads. They collected over 6,220 bags of litter.

For the future of the AAH program, Oldaker-Thaxton plans



Left, David Keatley and Tricia Sizemore pick up trash near DEP headquarters in Charleston. Right, Greg Demyan, of the Oak Hill office, fills his trash bag.



to implement as many of the volunteers’ ideas as possible.

“A lot of the volunteers I’ve spoken to had different ideas as to how to improve the cleanup process and make it easier on everyone involved,” Oldaker-Thaxton said. “After all, these citizens are volunteering their time to try and improve the roadways throughout this state,

which will benefit us all.”

A perk for being a “clean” citizen is a free gift, given by the AAH program. Some past gifts were flashlights and tote bags.

“Walking alongside the roadway and picking up others’ trash is not how anyone wants to spend their day,” Oldaker-Thaxton said. “The gift is the least we can do for them.”



The DEP helped secure funding from the EPA’s National Clean Diesel Campaign to be used to help pay for Greenbrier County’s fleet of five new, cleaner school buses.

Greenbrier Schools’ initiative helps land funding for buses

By Kathy Cosco

Staff from the Division of Air Quality traveled to Fairlea on June 9, to present Greenbrier County Schools with a check for \$235,294 that helped replace five older-model school buses with newer, cleaner buses.

DAQ Director John Benedict, Air Toxics Coordinator Renu Chakrabarty and DAQ staffer Stephanie Hammonds attended Greenbrier County Schools’ annual bus



DAQ Director John Benedict and Air Toxics Coordinator Renu Chakrabarty address the gathering.

Road-e-o to present the ceremonial check and to see the new buses in action.

Funding for the project was from the EPA’s National Clean



Diesel Campaign, and was specifically made available for projects to reduce diesel exhaust

See FUNDING, Page 10



Workers clear trash from behind the Morgantown Lock and Dam after the Army Corps of Engineers released debris in order to perform repairs to the lock.

DEP assists in cleanup around lock

The Department of Environmental Protection participated in a June 15 cleanup on the Monongahela River when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released debris from behind the Morgantown Lock.

The release was necessary to conduct repairs to the lock and the sweep was the first ever held in conjunction with a release of debris.

With the help of 12 volunteers, 50 bags of trash were collected, as were 20 tires, two propane tanks and other large debris.

The DEP’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) assisted in the cleanup by providing bags, gloves and pickers. REAP also provided hauling and landfill fees.



Students plant trees earlier this spring at Apogee Coal's Guyan Surface Mine in Logan County. In addition to winning a state Excellence in Reforestation Award from ARRI, Apogee's Guyan mine also captured a regional ARRI honor.

ARRI regional award lands in state for first time

Logan County's Apogee Coal Company has been named the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) Excellence in Reforestation Regional Award winner for 2010.

"This is the first time West Virginia has won the regional award," said Kevin Quick, of the DEP's Division of Mining and Reclamation, which is a participating member of ARRI. "Hopefully, there are many more to come."

ARRI is a cooperative effort among the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM); several states, including West Virginia; environmental organizations; and local, state and federal government agencies.

Its goals are to plant more high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal-mined lands in Appalachia and

See ARRI, Page 8



Coal-Mac Inc.'s Phoenix No. 2 surface mine in Logan County was presented a state ARRI Excellence in Reforestation Award on May 26 at the mining complex. Pictured above (from left in front row) are Rick Buckley, OSM; Chris Skyes, Coal-Mac; Jonathan Rorrer, DEP; and Kevin Quick, DEP. Back row: Rick Adams, Coal-Mac; John Flesher, DEP; Scott Eggerud, OSM; Harold Ward, DEP; and Greg Mitchell, OSM.

2011 Youth Environmental Awards

Issued by the WVDEP

Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship — Amanda Hannon, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County.

West Virginia Forestlands & Wood Products Art Awards — Gage Smith, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County (grade school); Adrianna McCoy, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County (middle school); Cody Gallagher, Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County (high school).

Sustainable Forestry Art Poster Award — Gweneth Paige Ashman, Daisy Troop 4988, Roane County.

Maple Award (tree planting) — Mountwood Park Youth, Wood County.

Go-Mart Corporate Energy Essay Award — Mary Jorgensen, Winfield High Environmental Action Club, Putnam County.

Bear Category Environmental Award — Wilsonburg New Horizon 4-H Club, Harrison County.

Litter Control Award -- Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County.

Mountain Laurel Category Environmental Award — Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County.

Cardinal Art Poster Awards — (Two first-place winners) Sarah Pomeroy, Midway Meridians 4-H Club, Putnam County. Faith Cook, Golden Stars 4-H Club, Mason County.

Rick Vecellio Memorial Art Poster Awards — (Five winners) Michael King, Busy Buddies 4-H Club, Mason County; Matthew Richardson, Roadrunners 4-H Club, Mason County; Josie Hill, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County; Lily Pauley, Winfield Scotts 4-H Club, Putnam County; Amanda King, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County. The \$100 awards are given for posters that depict an environmental theme, judged on originality, quality, and choice of theme.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin Beautification Award — Boy Scout Troop and Crew 32, Hampshire County.

Keep West Virginia Beautiful Awards — Sand Hill Explorers 4-H Club, Wood County.

Mountain State Award of Excellence Environmental Project — Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy C. Huffman Brook Trout Kindergarten Award -- Belleville 4-H Cloverbuds, Wood County.

Youth Environmental Hall of Fame Awards — Elaine Ashman, Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County. Cody Gallagher, Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County.

Stream and Trails Award — Sharp Shooters Shooting Sports 4-H Club, Wood County.

Pepsi Cola District Awards — (Given to youth groups in each of the six districts in recognition of their overall community environmental efforts). Each receives \$100. District 1: Cross Roads 4-H Club, Marion County. District 2: Jersey Mountain Workers 4-H Club, Hampshire County. District 3: Horner Busy Bees 4-H Club, Lewis County. District 4: Hinton Helping Hands 4-H Club, Summers County. District 5: Ashton Elementary Second Grade, Mason County. District 6: Comet Cardinals 4-H Club, Jackson County.

Environmental Achievement Award — Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County.

Rhododendron Category Environmental Awards — Winfield High School Environmental Action Club, Putnam County.

Recycling Awards — Hill Billie 4-H Club, Mason County.

Wildlife Management Award — Go Getters 4-H Club, Mason County.

Recycling Education and Awareness Award — Cow Creek Hi Strivers 4-H Club, Putnam County.

Save Our Streams Award — Lucky Leaf 4-H Rhododendron Club, Randolph County.

Kroger Plastic Recycling Awards — Midway Getters 4-H Club, Preston County.

Environmental Education Award — Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County.

Watershed Protection Award — Boy Scout Troop 250, Kanawha County.

REAP Adopt-A-Spot Award — Schultz Ridge Runners 4-H Club, Pleasants County.

North Bend Clean & Green Litter Control Award — Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County.

West Virginia State Parks Superintendents Association Award — Pony Pals 4-H Club/Summers County Green Team, Pence Springs.

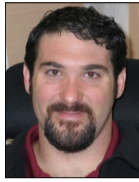
REAP Recycling Power Point Presentation Awards — Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County.

DWWM's Seagle has spot as extra in hit film 'Super 8'

By Tom Aluise

It would mean taking nearly two weeks of annual leave, spending a substantial amount of time away from family and home and working 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. shifts for \$8 an hour.

So, how difficult of a decision was it for Kevin Seagle to be an extra in the film "Super 8," the recently released Steven Spielberg-produced, sci-fi/mystery



Seagle

said, "When are you ever going to get another chance to be on a movie set?" She was right. I'll remember this as long as I live," said

that was filmed in Weirton, W.Va., and is receiving rave reviews?

Not difficult at all.

"My wife

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Kevin Seagle displays the costume he wore as an extra in the recently released film, "Super 8." Seagle is a former U.S. Army Ranger.

DEP retirements

Haskel Boytek

DMR

Last day: May 31, 2011

Years of service: 20

Theodora Plumley

PIO

Last day: June 30, 2011

Years of service: 29

Marty Dickinson

DMR

Last day: June 30, 2011

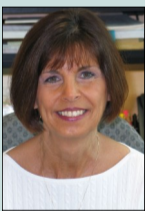
Years of service: 38

Roger Green

DLR

Last day: June 30, 2011

Years of service: 35



Gloria Shaffer

DWWM

Last day: June 30, 2011

Years of service: 38

After having worked for the state for 38 years and 11 months, it's time for me to go.

I started working for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in August of 1970 at the young age of 17 — barely out of high school (for which I was paid \$310 per month before deductions). In November 1972, I transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs for 11 months and in October 1973 I transferred to the DNR — Water Resources Division where I worked until my son was born in May 1978.

I was a stay-at-home mom until I returned to Water Resources in September 1980 and have been here ever since, where the majority of my time was spent working in permits.

I have been so fortunate to have had great bosses, with just one small speed bump along the way. I have seen so many changes over the years. The technology is so different today than when I started working. We had to do everything on the

typewriter and use correction tape. When there was a change in leadership, whether it be within the agency or a new governor, there was no new letterhead available on the intranet. We would get one box of new letterhead from the print shop and have to share it with everyone until they could print more. Today, things are so much easier.

As far as my plans for retirement, I have a very large TO DO list. The first thing I am looking forward to is just having a summer off. I am a warm weather person and being able to get outside and enjoy it will be wonderful. My 9-year-old grandson lives out-of-state and is coming to spend four to five weeks with us. I'm sure he will keep me on the go while he's here.

My immediate family, all 16 of us, have a summer beach trip planned. When we return, my mom is facing surgery and this will allow me to be there for her. I have a lot of things I want to do around the house that I've said for years, I will get to that when I retire. I have a kitchen table and chairs that I want to refinish and I might even surprise my husband and do some grass cutting.

When winter comes, I have different ideas. I love to cross stitch but haven't done that for a few years and want to give it a try — that is if I can still see all those small symbols. And I've always wanted to try my hand at making a quilt. I also plan to catch up on some reading.

DEP (as we're known today) is the place where I felt like I had found my home ... where I was supposed to be.

I have seen so many people come and go over the years and have made so many friends. I will miss the people but I won't miss having to leave the house at 7:15 each day, going out in freezing temperatures or travelling on bad roads. I have never been a morning person, so I will love being able to be a bit lazy in the mornings. I won't be doing much sleeping in, though, because my dog Allie (Mini Schnauzer) will not let me sleep past 7 a.m. She's better than any alarm clock you could ever have.

In closing, I'll say that I don't think I could have found a better place to work for the past 30-plus years. I will truly miss everyone.



Reward and Recognition

Frank Shreve, who works for the Division of Mining and Reclamation out of the Philippi office, was presented a Reward and Recognition certificate from Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman during an awards ceremony on June 8.

Shreve formed and chaired a Training Committee in Philippi to design and construct a formalized training program for newly hired inspectors.

Although he was not the first to attempt this project, Shreve was the first to design and shepherd a program that is flexible, inclusive and maintainable into the foreseeable future.

He demonstrated initiative and dedication in designing the basic program framework and populating the structure with lesson plans and instructors.



June Employee of the Month

Bill Timmermeyer, of the Division of Water and Waste Management, was named the DEP's June Employee of the Month.

Timmermeyer manages one of the largest groups of employees within a division at the DEP and maintains some extremely busy and complex programs.

Still, he always makes time to respond to employees' needs.

His subordinates have expressed that he has always shown far-sighted leadership abilities in managing program objectives, as well as handling personnel matters.

Other comments by Timmermeyer's employees are that "he is a fair supervisor; he's tireless and he leads by example; he inspires us to work hard."

EXTRA

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Seagle, who works for the Division of Water and Waste Management's Watershed Assessment Branch out of the DEP's Charleston headquarters.

If you haven't seen *Super 8*, watch for Seagle near the end of the movie, during a scene where an army tank is plowing through a playground.

"There is a column of five or six soldiers running from right to left in the background," Seagle said. "I am the first one in the column. It was kind of crazy seeing myself run across the screen."

Two factors played heavily into Seagle, a Virginia native and 10-year DEP veteran, landing a spot in the film. For starters, his cousin was hired to find extras for the production. Second, Seagle is a former U.S. Army Ranger. The movie's plot has a military flavor.

"My cousin let me know early what I needed to do," Seagle said. "They were looking for people with a military background. They wanted people who knew how to wear a uniform and carry a weapon properly."

Seagle submitted his photo and background and ultimately was chosen as an extra.

"They needed so many people, I don't think very many were turned down," Seagle said.

He worked during a two-week period last fall. With the exception of three days, Seagle said he was involved in filming every day over a 14-day period. All of his scenes were shot at night. Seagle stayed in a hotel and with friends in the Weirton area.

Before filming began, there was a day of "extras boot camp."

"Military advisors were there to make sure everything looked right — to make sure it looked like an actual military movement," Seagle said. "They met with the extras to make sure their equipment looked right and they knew how to wear a uniform."

"The guys who actually had military backgrounds were given a lot more responsibilities and a lot more scenes. There was a lot of sitting around and waiting between shots, which was punctuated by a few minutes of excitement."

Although Seagle didn't meet any of the child actors who dominate the film — he rarely saw them because stand-ins were used in the scenes involving Seagle — he did meet writer-director J.J. Abrams, who gave the extras a "pep talk."

Of the five scenes in which he was included, Seagle was able to make out three when he watched the movie for the first time recently.

"It was all neighborhood shots where the army is running around shooting up the place," he said. "It reminded me of night infiltration courses at boot camp, where they simulate the chaos of battle"

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DEP visit opens students' eyes

By Tom Aluise

Division of Mining and Reclamation staffers received high marks from a visiting group of West Virginia University upperclassmen and graduate students.

Last month, Professor Fonda Holehouse brought her summer travel course, entitled "Applied Environmental Regulation," to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection headquarters in Charleston.

Thirty WVU students spent the day listening to DMR officials, including Director Tom Clarke, explain the state's mining regulatory program.

"This is the fourth summer I offered this class and the second summer the DEP participated," Holehouse said. "This class is a followup to the spring semester environmental regulation class that is classroom-based and offered at the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design."

The group that visited Charleston included 11 graduate students, 12 seniors, six juniors and one sophomore.

"We had a number of students from engineering, several from the safety program and a



West Virginia University students in a summer travel course entitled "Applied Environmental Regulation" spent a day learning from DMR staffers at DEP headquarters.

variety of students from the Davis College studying forestry, plant and soil sciences and ag-business, as well as environmental protection," Holehouse said.

Judging from the students' written comments on evaluation forms collected by Holehouse, most considered their visit to the DEP to be very productive.

In addition to meeting with DMR staff, the students also spent time with James Martin, chief of the Office of Oil and Gas.

"To be honest, I came into this class thinking that the West Virginia DEP could do a better job," one student said. "I came away from this class thinking that these guys are taking on what is almost an impossible

job. I have a new appreciation for the challenges of environmental protection."

"I totally enjoyed listening to the presenters in Charleston," another student said. "Before this trip, I had no idea what they did at the DEP and how hard their job was."

Another student said the DEP backed up all the information that was being presented in class.

"It was awesome to hear the professionals," the student said. "It's good to know we're getting current information."

"The day at the DEP and the following day at Arch Coal actually changed the way I see things when it comes to mining," another student said. "I think I had a biased view before. I

think my view is more balanced now."

In addition to Clarke, other DMR presenters included Jeff McCormick, Bob Fala, Ashley Carroll, Wayne Wilson, Butch Borth, Kevin Quick and Richard Roy. Lewis Halstead, a DMR deputy director, along with Mining's Nick Schaer and Cindy Lawson, helped organize the event.

A smaller class of students from American University also visited DEP headquarters in May to learn about mining regulations.

Halstead said the DMR welcomes visits from college students.

"It helps us get our point across and helps people understand that we're here to enforce regulations," he said. "It also gives us a chance to demonstrate that reclamation can be successful."

Harold Ward, DMR deputy director, said most students are surprised by the complexity of the permitting process for mining.

"They're amazed," Ward said. "They realize it's not like, 'Hey, you pay a fee and get your permit.' There are strict permitting requirements and strict enforcement that follows it up in the field."

ARRI

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to increase the survival rates and growth rates of planted trees.

The ARRI regional award recipient is selected from nominees of state ARRI winners. Apogee Coal's Guyan Surface Mine and Coal-Mac's Phoenix Surface Mine No. 2 were ARRI state winners for West Virginia.

Apogee Coal will be presented with its regional award during the 2011 ARRI Mined Land Reforestation Conference at the Hilton Hotel in Knoxville, Tenn., on Aug. 2-4.

In other ARRI news, OSM recently announced that it was the recipient of the first Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award in recognition of ARRI.

The Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds chose the award winner.

ARRI was also chosen for a Forest Lands Leadership Award during the National Arbor Day Awards.

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Joel Brown, DMR
- ▶ Pamela Carpenter, Admin.
- ▶ Jacqueline Crawford, ITO
- ▶ Sonya Fleming, OLS
- ▶ Jennifer Garlesky, PIO
- ▶ Joel Shields, DMR
- ▶ Thomas Smith, AML
- ▶ Justin White, DMR
- ▶ Julie Zickefoose, AML

2011 Youth Environmental Day



WARD

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is facing, we as a regulatory agency must be very diligent in our efforts to avoid distractions and fulfill our obligations to the people.

“I truly believe in DMR’s mission and the ability of our staff to achieve it.”

A Logan native, Ward has worked in DMR inspection and enforcement for 22 years. In his new role, he’ll oversee the inspection, enforcement and permitting functions of the DMR.

Ward succeeds Bill Simmons, who retired in 2009, and is one of two DMR deputy directors, along with Lewis Halstead.

Ward is no stranger to hard work. As an inspector supervisor in Logan, his unit of nine

inspectors completed roughly 3,000 inspections per year.

“My duties now are very different from what I experienced when working as an inspector supervisor in Logan,” Ward said.

“My previous position provided me with the opportunity to gain extensive experience with all types and methods of mining. It also gave me the opportunity to deal with a very wide range of people of different backgrounds and perspectives.

“My new position provides the opportunity to deal with issues statewide and requires more of a procedural approach rather than a do-this/don’t-do-that approach.”

Ward’s direct staff includes Jeff McCormick, who oversees inspection and

enforcement; Richard Roy, who manages the permitting staff; and Jeff Parsons, who manages NPDES permitting for mining.

Ward also oversees the program managers in each field office — Benny Campbell (Logan), Keith Porterfield (Oak Hill/Welch) and Brent Wiles (Philippi).

“These guys are the guys who get the bulk of the work done and make sure that our enforcement and permitting people have the tools they need to get the job done,” Ward said.

“I have also recently selected Ashley Carroll as mitigation coordinator, who I am sure will be very successful in her new position.”

Ward said the decision to leave his post in Logan wasn’t easy.

“It was very difficult,” he said. “I enjoyed my previous position and worked with some outstanding people in the Logan office. I had only a few days to decide on the position. I’m very grateful for the opportunity and hope to facilitate improvements to the program and for our staff.”

Ward said among the issues that needs to be addressed in the DMR is the loss of experienced staff through retirement.

“You can’t mitigate the loss of institutional knowledge,” he said.

Ward also would like to re-establish the DMR’s in-house training program and expand other opportunities for training.

“And we need to improve the line of communications between headquarters and our regional offices,” Ward said.

FUNDING

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emissions.

The EPA-funded grant provided approximately 50 percent of the replacement cost for the five Greenbrier County buses. The other half of the funding was raised by the county.

The new buses meet EPA’s latest emission control standards.

Greenbrier County Schools took the initiative to try to get competitive grant funding to help upgrade their fleet, but weren’t successful with that approach.

“The fact that they stepped out on their own helped push them to the top of our list for consideration for this funding,” Chakrabarty said.

Chakrabarty said the staff in Greenbrier County was enthusiastic, professional and very pleasant to work with.

“George Brooks, the county’s transportation director, and David

McClure, treasurer, always had a very can-do approach about making this project work,” she said.

According to Chakrabarty, school buses have a long life-span.

They spend years, and sometimes even decades in service.

School systems will retire them from the fleet, then the buses are often sold to other entities or even other countries, where they continue to be used and continue to emit exhaust.

“One of the requirements of this grant is that the buses had to be destroyed so that they could not continue to emit the exhaust allowed by these older models,” Chakrabarty said.

“The folks in Greenbrier County took that requirement seriously.

“I received a number of photographs of buses cut up in yellow pieces!”

Brooks said the school buses in Greenbrier County travel more than 4,000 miles a day in what he called

the second largest geographical county east of the Mississippi River.

Benedict said:

“This project is an example of a local agency being ready to act on opportunities to help green our transportation sector and improve air quality in our communities.”

Hammonds said she enjoyed the Road-e-o and seeing the new buses in action.

“You can tell by talking to the transportation staff that they really care about making sure the buses are safe and reliable.”

Through the EPA’s Diesel Emissions Reduction Act fund and its National Clean Diesel Campaign, the DAQ has helped upgrade the fleets of buses at the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority in Charleston and Tri-State Transit Authority in Huntington; and the fleet of heavy dump trucks at the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

EXTRA

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to see how people react.

“There were tanks moving quickly through the streets, firing constantly, special effects explosions, and thousands of rounds of blanks being fired in each scene. It was intense.

“I had one of the special effects explosions malfunction and explode late, spreading fire across the street in front of me.”

For the picture, Weirton was transformed into a 1979 Ohio steel town.

Seagle said area residents turned out in

large numbers to take in filming. Others watched curiously from their living room windows.

“It was amazing how they were able to shoot the movie in such a manner that you don’t see all the modern things, or all the people standing around watching,” said Seagle,

adding that the enormity of the project was unforgettable.

“It was kind of awe-inspiring to see what they were able to do. A couple of times we were filming around 1 a.m. during a weekday with explosions going off. I was kind of surprised we were allowed to do that.”