

DEP begins play in 2012 Corporate Cup tourney

In search of its 11th consecutive Division III Corporate Cup championship, the Department of Environmental Protection opened play June 9 in softball competition.

Corporate Cup runs through Saturday, June 30, when the event wraps up with track and field competition at University of Charleston Stadium.

Scheduled the week of June 18 are billiards, cornhole, closest to the pin golf, tennis and the soccer shootout.

The week of June 25 includes darts, bowling, table tennis, swimming and track and field events. Go to YMAAwv.org for event listings.



Dan Roberts, from the Division of Air Quality, releases a pitch during the DEP's Corporate Cup softball tourney victory over the City of Charleston. The DAQ's Jay Fedczak is in the background. The DEP went 1-2 in softball play on June 9.



Agency shirt honors Damron

The back of the 2012 DEP Corporate Cup T-shirt is dedicated to the memory of the late John Damron, who died on April 29.

Damron, a mining inspector for the DEP, was a dedicated Corporate Cup participant. Over the years, he played softball, volleyball, table tennis and other sports.

"I think everybody was thinking about honoring John in some way," Corporate Cup Captain Dan Roberts said. "Everybody had a suggestion. We kept working on it and came up with what we did."

Oil and Gas permitting staff tackling backlog

By Tom Aluise

It's a room *without* a view ... the perfect place for a trio of employees from the Office of Oil and Gas to embark on a nose-to-the-grindstone assault on the state's backlog of horizontal gas well permit applications.

If you're looking for Gene Smith, Laura Adkins or Jeff McLaughlin these days, don't bother stopping by their regular second-floor offices at DEP headquarters. They're spending most of their time in



From left, Jeff McLaughlin, Laura Adkins and Gene Smith, from the Office of Oil and Gas, focus on the backlog of the state's horizontal well permit applications from the quiet confines of a third-floor conference room.

Recognition meaningful to groups

By Tom Aluise

For George Santucci, of the New River Clean Water Alliance, winning an Environmental Award from the Department of Environmental Protection is the type of momentum-builder his group needs.

“I think it energizes folks who have been working so hard to have their work acknowledged,” said Santucci. “That enthusiasm is contagious and can get more folks involved.”

Santucci’s group formed in 2009 to address concerns about the health of the New River. In 2011, the Alliance published a report, the “Lower New River State of the Watershed” that highlights some of the threats to the Lower New and offers recommendations to improve water quality and support community efforts.

On May 25, the Alliance was one of 14 honorees to receive Environmental Awards during a ceremony at DEP headquarters.

The Alliance won in the category of Environmental Stewardship.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman was on hand to present the awards to industries, businesses, municipalities, educators, community leaders and volunteers who share in the DEP’s mission of promoting a healthy environment. The awards covered the 2011 calendar year.

“I personally think people



Members of the Oak Hill-based New River Clean Water Alliance accept their Environmental Excellence Award. From left are, Brad Baskette, Courtney Wait, George Santucci, Heather Lukacs and Levi Rose, pictured with the DEP’s Jennifer Garlesky and Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman.

respond to recognition,” Huffman said. “There are a lot of different ways to recognize people, but I think recognizing them in front of their peers is the way to do it and I think it’s vitally important to do that.”

Huffman was particularly pleased to recognize volunteers for their outstanding community service.

“It’s a lot easier to get a good product out of somebody who wants to do a good job rather than paying somebody and forcing them to do a good job,” Huffman said. “That’s my philosophy on volunteers. They make all the difference in the

world.”

Donna Seiler, of Berkeley County, received the Outstanding Litter Control Officer award.

“It shows what we are doing is making a difference and we’re hoping to continue that,” she said. Other award winners were:

FMC Corp., and the City of Nitro (co-winners); Hilltop Elementary; Morgantown Utility Board; LCS Services; Corhart Refractories; SIS-West Virginia; Goodwill of KYOWVA; Bonnie Durig, Hillbillies 4-H Club; Alderson Green Team; Don Lane, Ducks Unlimited; Tygart Valley Youth Group; and North Bend State Park (Cairo).



DEP assists with river cleanup

The DEP’s Environmental Enforcement River Compliance Unit and the agency’s Emergency Response team assisted in a Kanawha River cleanup following an accident on May 25. A pickup crashed into the river. The blacktop sealing rig (tank, pump and hoses) was pulled out of the river, but the blacktop sealing was ejected from the bed of the truck and began leaking. Charleston firefighters and the EPA assisted in the recovery of the unit. Deborah Keener, Newt Harmon and Eric Philyaw, with EE, and Dave Wheatcraft, Matthew Smith, and Rebecca Wiseman, with Emergency Response, were involved in the cleanup.

indepth

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North Bend State Park Superintendent Steve Jones (right) talks with the DAQ's Jeanne Chandler and a camp visitor during this year's Youth Environmental Day in Cairo.

North Bend Park, Youth Day go hand-in-hand

By Tom Aluise

It's a perfect marriage.

That essentially sums up the Youth Environmental Program's relationship with North Bend State Park in Cairo, Ritchie County.

Every year, since 1982, North Bend has hosted the YEP's Youth Environmental Day, opening its grounds to close to 1,000 West Virginia kids and their families.

Last month, the Department of Environmental Protection recognized North Bend with an Environmental Excellence Award. Park Superintendent Steve Jones accepted the Cabinet Secretary Award on behalf of North Bend.

"Youth Day is about conservation and taking care of the environment," said Jones, who's been in his position for eight years. "It falls in line so much with the park's mission statement. For us to have an opportunity to host an event that promotes that awareness is wonderful."

Youth Day is devoted to recognizing youth groups from around the state for their environmental stewardship. Typically conducted on a Saturday in May, many of the groups camp for two nights on North Bend's grounds. Park officials waive all camping fees for the event.

"It can be overwhelming. It definitely pushes the park to the limits," Jones said. "There is no other event we do here that involves so many people for this period of time."

But, Jones said, the positives far outweigh any stress he and his staff have to deal with.

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STAFF

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Room No. 3142, a third-floor conference room that's been converted into the Grand Central Station of permit reviewing.

Tucked amid the stacks of white paper and unburdened by ringing telephones and email messages, Smith, Adkins and McLaughlin are working tirelessly to increase the speed at which horizontal well permit applications are reviewed and issued.

At the same time, they're reducing the backlog of applications, brought on, in part, by the gas industry's new drilling/completion technologies and recently passed horizontal well legislation.

So far, the "getting away from it all" strategy is paying off as everyone hoped.

"We're getting permits through faster in here," said Smith, head of permitting for the Office of Oil and Gas.

Smith, along with permit reviewers Adkins and McLaughlin, moved into their current home on May 15 and expect to remain on the third floor through August. Smith said they hope their average review time is cut in half by then.

"We're trying to decrease the permit turnaround time to 60 days," he said. "We've made a lot of progress."

According to Adkins, there were close to 270 horizontal well applications pending when Smith and crew moved to the third floor.

After three weeks that number was reduced to 170. By August, the team hopes to have the backlog taken care of.

Smith said DEP staff on the third floor has been very supportive, understanding and receptive to his staff's presence.

"Everybody up here has been wonderful," he said.

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Jennifer Bannister, DWWM
- ▶ Dana Lynne Burns, OOG
- ▶ Thomas Ditty, DWWM
- ▶ Justin Howell, DMR
- ▶ Kaitlyn Kiehart, DMR
- ▶ Travis Lawson, DWWM
- ▶ James Lusk, OOG
- ▶ Larry Riggleman, DLR
- ▶ Veronica Taylor, DWWM

Youth Day



Rusty Joins and Becca Wiseman, from the DEP's Homeland Security and Emergency Response Unit, quiz kids with environmental questions at Youth Day.

■ Close to 1,000 people turned out for the DEP's 49th Annual Youth Environmental Day last month at North Bend State Park. A complete list of award winners can be found on page 5.



Top, Sandy Rogers and Niki Davis from REAP share information with visitors to Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park in Cairo, Ritchie County. At left, Cub Scout Pack 47 from Wood County participates in the opening ceremony parade.

YOUTH

Continued from Page 3

The state's youth groups represent the future users of the state's parks and tomorrow's stewards of West Virginia's natural resources.

"We're teaching kids not only about protecting their natural resources, but also about being quality adults," Jones said.

"What these kids are learning here, they can take into their adult lives. It's about being responsible in all aspects of life."

Diana Haid, who directs the Youth Program for the DEP, said North Bend is the perfect partner.

"There have been six or seven different park superintendents since we've been going to North Bend and every one of them has been good to work with," Haid said. "The North Bend staff is on top of things. They've done this for so many years that, if I miss something, they know to bring it up. And for as many people we have each year, we've had very few incidents."

'Environment Matters' out with June episode

The fourth episode of the DEP's TV show, "Environment Matters," is now available:

- [Environment Matters Part 1](#)
- [Environment Matters Part 2](#)
- [Environment Matters Part 3](#)
- [Environment Matters Part 4](#)

The show also can be seen on the Library Channel on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. It also airs on Thursdays at 3:30 a.m. and on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.

Youth Environmental awards

Awards at this year's Youth Environmental Day were presented based on youth groups' participation in community environmental projects such as litter cleanups, recycling drives, school beautification projects, tree planting and much more.

Following is the list of winners:

Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship – Brittany Peters, Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County. This scholarship is presented to an active Youth Environmental Program member with exemplary conduct throughout his/her school years. Recipient receives \$2,500 per year for four years.

West Virginia Forestlands & Wood Products Art Awards – Drew Ash, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County (grade school winner); Ronnie Bonecutter, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County (middle school winner); Melissa Ashman, Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County (high school winner). Three \$150 awards are presented for art creations that promote West Virginia's forest resources or wood products created from these forests.

Sustainable Forestry Art Poster Award – Gage Smith, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County. This \$150 award is presented for the poster that best expresses ideas on sustainable forestry.

Maple Award (tree planting) – Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County. This \$150 award is presented to the youth group completing the best tree planting project.

Go-Mart Corporate Energy Essay Award – Chloe Sergeant, Cow Creek Hi Strivers 4-H Club, Putnam County. First place \$125.

Bear Category Environmental Award – Mount Clare Mountaineers 4-H Club, Harrison County. This \$500 award is presented to a youth group, whose members are ages 12-14, completing projects that answer an environmental need.

Litter Control Award – Newark Shining Stars 4-H Club, Wirt County. This \$250 award is for the youth group that has completed the most successful litter cleanup projects.

Mountain Laurel Category Environmental Award – Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County. This \$500 award recognizes youth groups, ages 6-11, which have completed projects addressing an environmental need.

Cardinal Art Poster Awards – Dylan Haynes, Vernon-Stardusters 4-H Club, Mason County and Amanda



King, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County. Cardinal Art Posters must depict an environmental theme.

Rick Vecellio Memorial Art Poster Awards – Elaine Ashman, Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County; Kaden Smith, Greenwood Wildcats 4-H Club, Doddridge County; Alyssa Hudson, Winfield Scotts 4-H Club, Putnam County; Andrew McComas, Go Getters 4-H Club, Mason County; Mark Tucker, Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County. The \$100 awards are given for posters that depict an environmental theme.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin Beautification Award – Comet Cardinals 4-H Club, Jackson County. The \$150 award is presented to the youth group that completes the most outstanding job of community litter prevention, cleanup and beautification.

Keep West Virginia Beautiful Awards – Bridge Creek Bandits 4-H Club, Putnam County. The \$125 award is presented for the most outstanding litter prevention project conducted for a school.

Mountain State Award of Excellence Environmental Project – Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$500 award is for clubs with projects answering an environmental need, that have also won first place in the past two years in the Mountain Laurel, Bear and Rhododendron categories.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy C. Huffman Brook Trout Kindergarten Award – Belleville 4-H Cloverbuds, Wood County. This \$200 award is presented to the kindergarten group that completes the most outstanding environmental projects.

Youth Environmental Hall of Fame Awards – Sequoia Bua-lam, Winfield High School Environmental Action Club, Putnam County; Jonathan Swecker, Lucky Leaf 4-H Rhododendron Club, Randolph County. The \$100 awards go to the outstanding boy and girl who are nominated based on

their extensive involvement in their club's community environmental activities.

Stream and Trails Award – Sharp Shooters Shooting Sports 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$100 award goes to the youth group that has shown the most effort in cleaning a stream and/or building or maintaining a trail.

District Coordinators' Awards – (Given to youth groups in each of the six districts in recognition of their overall community environmental efforts). Each receives \$100. District 1: Wilsonburg New Horizons 4-H Club, Harrison County. District 2: Greensburg Go Getters 4-H Club, Berkeley County. District 3: Horner Busy Bees 4-H Club, Lewis County. District 4: Hinton Helping Hands 4-H Club, Summers County. District 5: Point Pleasant Jr./Sr. High, Environmental Buddies, Mason County. District 6: Morristown Mountaineers 4-H Club, Wirt County.

Environmental Achievement Award – Winfield Scotts 4-H Cloverbuds, Putnam County. This \$125 award is presented to a newly enrolled youth group that has shown the most progress through participation in community environmental projects.

Rhododendron Category Environmental Awards – Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County. This \$500 award is presented to a youth group completing projects that answer an environmental need, whose members are ages 15 years and older.

Recycling Awards – Hill Billie 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$300 award is presented to a youth group with the best overall recycling projects.

Wildlife Management Award – Boy Scout Troop 32 and Crew 32, Hampshire County. This \$200 award is presented to a youth group completing a wildlife management project that encompasses food, water and cover for West Virginia's wildlife.

Recycling Education and

Awareness Award – Cow Creek Hi Strivers 4-H Club, Putnam County. This \$150 award is given to the youth group with the best community recycling education and awareness project based on club and community involvement.

Save Our Streams Award – Lucky Leaf 4-H Rhododendron Club, Randolph County. This \$100 award is given to the youth group whose project(s) meets the goals of the Save Our Streams Program.

Kroger Plastic Recycling Awards – Midway Getters 4-H Club, Preston County. This \$250 award encourages recycling plastic shopping bags.

Environmental Education Award – Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County. The award is presented to the youth group that has completed the most outstanding work in environmental education by creating public awareness on environmental issues.

Watershed Protection Award – Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County. The \$250 award is given to the youth group that shows the most effort in watershed protection, education and community awareness.

REAP Adopt-A-Spot Award – Schultz Ridge Runners 4-H Club, Pleasants County. This award is presented to the youth group with an Adopt-A-Spot that has maintained the spot with three reported cleanups and that has planted and maintained flowers on the spot for each blooming season.

North Bend Clean & Green Litter Control Award – Cairo Climbers 4-H Club, Ritchie County. This \$200 award is presented to the youth group that completes the most outstanding job of litter prevention and cleanup efforts at North Bend State Park.

West Virginia State Parks Superintendents Association Award – Roane Jackson Tech Center, FFA Chapter, Jackson County. This \$250 award was established by the late Steve Boler, superintendent of Pipestem Resort State Park, to foster relationships between local youth groups and state parks, forests and wildlife management areas.

REAP Recycling Power Point Presentation Awards – Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County. This award was created for youth groups wishing to step up their involvement in environmental activities by creating a Recycling Power Point presentation.

Your check is his responsibility

David Kersey is an Administrative Services Assistant I in Human Resources.

Along with Judy Smith, he processes payroll for all of DEP, the Environmental Quality



Kersey

Board, Solid Waste Management Board and the Oil & Gas Conservation Commission. Originally from Nitro, Kersey has been with the agency 12 years. He and his wife, Rebekah, live in Clendenin with their two daughters, Tabitha, 15, and Tiffany, 11.

1. What is the No. 1 question employees have about their paycheck?

Why are there two deductions for my life insurance? Due to an IRS ruling, the premium on the first \$40,000 is deducted pre-taxed and any amount over \$40,000 will be deducted after taxes.

2. Wouldn't it be nice if you could personally deliver everyone's check?

It is always good to



With David Kersey

put a name with a face, but time wouldn't allow it.

3. West Virginia is consolidating all of its agencies' administrative systems into one system called WV OASIS. How will this change affect your job?

There will be less data entry. For example, when someone is hired, the person will be entered into the system one time, instead of our current process of entering a new employee four times in four different systems.

4. Are you actively involved in the changeover to OASIS?

I have been involved with OASIS from the beginning, sitting through demonstrations from different vendors presenting their product. This year has been the state of WV working with CGI to

build a system to meet the state's needs. The go live date for HR is January 2014.

5. What is the perfect day in payroll like?

No issues with anyone's check.

6. What is the No. 1 complaint employees have about their paycheck?

As Cap Smith would always tell me, "I need more money." Amazingly, a former employee told me "I make too much money."

7. Aside from taking care of payroll, what's your favorite thing to do?

I like to spend time with my wife and two daughters and serving as pastor of my church.

8. What is it like being the only male employee in Human Resources?

Here is my top 10 list for being the only male in HR:

10. You get sympathy for being the only male from other people.

9. You get a woman's perspective on various issues.

8. You learn to keep quiet when asked the

man's perspective on issues (That is a loaded question that I will never win).

7. You are Mr. FIX IT.

6. You are the GO TO GUY when something heavy needs carried.

5. You gain weight from all the good food the women bring, including leftovers.

4. When going out to a restaurant, the server gives me a compliment for being the only guy with all these women.

3. You get to be a gentleman to all of the ladies.

2. All the women look up to me.

1. When we go out as a group, I don't have to wait in line to use the bathroom. In training one day, I was the only male in attendance. When it was break time, there was a line for the ladies restroom, but not for me.

9. Is there one hassle associated with processing payroll that you wish would magically go away?

Having to make payroll changes at the last minute. Doing this job, people come to me

See CHECK, Page 9

Ex-camper's memories spark book series

By Tom Aluise

The state Junior Conservation Camp for youth ages 11-14 begins June 18.

And, if a week away from home in the outdoors inspires one camper the way it did Amber Elmore, camp Director Diana Haid will be happy.

As a youngster, Elmore attended the Department of Environmental Protection's annual Junior Conservation Camp at Cedar Lakes for four years and then returned as a junior leader.

That experience in nature enhanced a love of the outdoors that had been instilled in Elmore



Elmore

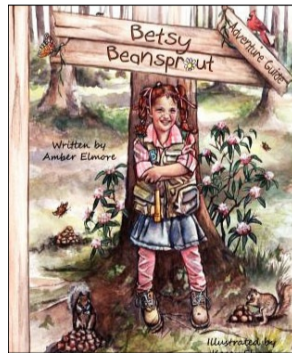
at an early age.

"It took it to a love and enthusiasm of wanting to learn more about nature," Elmore said. "It turned into a passion and a career."

That passion inspired Elmore to write a series of children's books about a character named Betsy Beansprout.

The first book, "Betsy Beansprout Adventure Guide" is out in paperback and available through Amazon.com, BN.com (Barnes&Noble) and at Books-A-Million.

The "Betsy Beansprout



The DEP's annual Junior Conservation Camp helped inspire author Amber Elmore's "Betsy Beansprout Adventure Guide."

Birdwatching Guide" is due out in October and others about wildflowers, camping and hiking are to follow.

"Betsy Beansprout is the main character and she's 6 years old,"

Elmore said. "She thinks she knows everything there is to know about nature.

"And, as anyone knows, a 6-year-old doesn't know everything.

"But she always gets it right in the end because she has a mom and dad who have taught her a lot and she carries that with her naturally."

It sounds a lot like Elmore's past.

"I got involved with Junior Conservation Camp and State Conservation Camp because my dad was a park superintendent, and I grew up on a state park," Elmore said. "So, the love of nature was instilled in me at an early age."

MIS cleanup once again successful

By Colleen O'Neill

The amount of interest in this spring's Make It Shine Statewide cleanup was impressive.

Almost 5,000 people across West Virginia volunteered during two weeks in April to help clean up some of West Virginia's terrain, working to make it more beautiful and the



Cooper

cleanest state in the union. Travis Cooper, who coordinates the MIS program for the Department of Environmental Protection, oversaw his fifth spring cleanup.

"Since I began in 2008, there is a noticeable difference in the number of volunteers and the overall interest shown," Cooper said. "The number of volunteers increased from 3,221 in 2008 to this year's number of 4,874. That's over 1,500 people who have taken interest."

And, with more interest comes more action. The time invested by the volunteers went from 5,625 hours five years ago to 10,276 hours this year.

In 2008, volunteers collected 309,703 pounds of litter, compared to 442,293 pounds this year. In beautifying West Virginia, 206 miles of roadway were stripped of debris. Eighty-eight miles of stream, 56 miles of trail, 600 acres of park, and 38 dumpsites received a clean makeover.

DEP staffer looks to share whitewater trip

By Colleen O'Neill

What better way to celebrate West Virginia's birthday than to enjoy its whitewaters with a rafting trip on the Lower New River.



"I've been a rafting guide for 32 years," said Aaron Thompson, an inspector with the DEP's Office of Special Reclamation.

For the eighth consecutive year, Thompson is organizing a whitewater rafting trip for DEP employees and their families.

"West Virginia is a beautiful state with a lot of truly awe-inspiring

scenery and whitewater adventures," said Thompson, who just recently rafted the Colorado River.

"This trip is a way to share this experience with my co-workers."

The trip is set for Saturday, June 23, and is with the rafting company, Adventures on the Gorge.

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DEP retirements

Dave Broschart

AML

Last day: June 29

Years of service: 37

Year-round Jean Friday for a good cause

By Colleen O'Neill

Blue jean Fridays at the Department of Environmental Protection have become a year-round perk. And, it's for a good cause.

Once relegated to the holiday season as a way to raise money for the Combined Campaign, denim days will stretch throughout the year as a fundraiser for, not only the Combined Campaign, but also the DEP's Employee Appreciation Fund.

From Jan. 1 through June 30, the \$1 collected from employees who wear jeans to work will go toward the annual DEP picnic and other employee activities.

From July 1 to Dec. 31, the collected funds are earmarked for the Combined Campaign.



The Combined Campaign is set up so employees can ensure that critical, wide-ranging human care services are available to those in need across West Virginia.

"One employee said that this is an easy fundraiser — you spend less time doing this than other fundraisers that take a lot of time away from your daily job," said Judy Smith, who works in Human

Resources.

She also serves on the Employee Appreciation committee.

How did this come about?

Smith said she and co-worker David Kersey approached June Casto, Administration Chief.

"We asked her about wearing jeans, and she proposed the idea of allowing jeans on Fridays, with part of the money going to the Employee Appreciation Fund — a gratitude to the employees for their hard work with DEP," Smith said.

Casto introduced the idea in the director's staff meeting and it was decided to expand jean Fridays to throughout the year.

In addition to helping with fundraising efforts, there are other benefits to wearing jeans to work,

Smith said.

"People mentioned they feel comfortable in jeans, more relaxed," she said.

"I just know people smile when they come in to purchase their ticket — and tell me it is really nice to be able to wear jeans to work."

Smith added that other employees have said:

"You get up on Friday morning with a smile knowing you get to wear jeans and don't have to worry about what to wear to work!

"It gives you something to look forward to on Fridays — you are already dressed to attend your kids' activities, or to meet with friends for dinner and movie without having to go home and change into something comfortable."

New basin coordinator a good fit

By Stephanie Ferrell

The Department of Environmental Protection's new Western Basin Coordinator brings a unique perspective to the position.

On June 1, Tomi Bergstrom joined the Water and Waste Management Nonpoint Source Program team after a brief stint as an Environmental Enforcement inspector for the DEP.

Bergstrom is one of four basin coordinators for the DEP and will work closely with watershed association education and project development.

"We are happy to have Tomi join the Nonpoint staff," said Jennifer Pauer, Water Resource manager and Bergstrom's supervisor. "We feel like our work in this basin will be enhanced by her experience with EE. That is a new twist for our shop and we know she will be missed in EE."

Bergstrom, a Randolph County native, replaces Dustin Johnson, who now works in the Division of Mining and Reclamation.

Bergstrom has a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's in biological sciences, with an emphasis in herpetology, the study of amphibians and reptiles.

"We are excited about her bringing her background in herpetology to the watershed



Former Environmental Enforcement inspector Tomi Bergstrom has joined the Nonpoint Source program as its Western Basin coordinator.

associations," Pauer said. "We think she can spark a new interest with the younger generation with her passion for West Virginia's environment and the connection between clean water and a healthy environment for amphibians and reptiles."

In addition to her time with EE, Bergstrom worked in the Monongahela National Forest's Greenbrier Ranger District conducting various timber and wildlife surveys and projects.

Among those were spruce reconnaissance surveys, Indiana bat telemetry tracking, soil pit excavation, and monitoring programs to track plant survival.

"Having worn many hats and

working alongside several state, federal and public sector organizations, I hope I can transfer my learned knowledge to this new position as Western Basin Coordinator," Bergstrom said. "I also have a great understanding of sewage treatment plants and industry from working with EE, which should aid me with this new position's responsibilities."

Since joining the NPS team, Bergstrom has already undergone wetland training.

"I am still learning my responsibilities as the WBC but I am a quick learner and excited to get started and see some change," Bergstrom said.

"My love for West Virginia runs deep and being given the opportunity to help protect or better it in any way is a pleasure."

Bergstrom will be based in the Kanawha City office.

Also joining the Nonpoint Source Team in the Oak Hill office is Nicholas County native Nicki Taylor.

She has been hired as the new assistant Southern Basin Coordinator focusing on watershed education, outreach, managing Stream Partners grants, and assisting watershed associations with their projects.

TRIP

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The cost is \$107.05, which includes taxes and all park fees, lunch on the river, and shuttle to and from the river.

There will be up to eight people per raft, plus the guide in each raft. If circumstances make it difficult to divide a group, nine people can be in a boat.

To sign up and pay for the trip, call 1-888-650-1932 and tell AOG to book the reservation on Aaron and Missy Thompson's trip on Saturday, June 23.

AOG will set the time as to your needed arrival. Aaron Thompson will assist with the reservations, if problems arise.

"AOG can take reservations as late as Friday, June 22," Thompson said.

"However, reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so it would be beneficial to make them early."

Thompson said AOG is offering a rafting trip on Wednesday, June 20.

"Neither I nor Missy will be on that trip, but if you tell AOG that you are from DEP and want Aaron's price, they'll take care of you.

"AOG has reduced the price of the trip as a 'Thank you' for West Virginia's employees. It's a savings of about \$20."

State's plan for Bay restoration praised

By Tom Aluise

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has praised West Virginia for its progress in developing the state's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to meet pollution reduction goals for West Virginia's streams and rivers that are part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

In a May 30 letter to DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman, EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin said, "West Virginia has made progress reducing pollution and moving forward with Phase I WIP commitments. The improvements noted in the enclosed evaluation increase EPA's confidence that West Virginia will meet its pollution reduction goals."



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Recently, West Virginia was one of five states to receive an EPA evaluation of its Phase II WIP, which was developed by the DEP and its partners to help define how the state will achieve the pollution load reductions required to support the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is the maximum amount of a

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Stream list comment period is extended

In response to multiple requests, the state Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period for the draft list of impaired streams in West Virginia to June 26, 2012.

These impaired streams are commonly referred to as the 303(d) List. The extension allows citizens additional time to review and make comments concerning the streams on the list.

Individuals may view the list on the DEP's Web site at www.dep.wv.gov. Written and e-mail comments are both acceptable. E-mails may be sent to Stephen.A.Young@wv.gov. Written comments can be sent to:

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management, 2012 303(d) List — Attn: Steve Young, 601 57th St., S.E., Charleston, WV 25304

For more information about the 2012 draft 303(d) List, contact Young at (304) 926-0495, ext. 1042.

Ohio River Sweep Saturday

Thousands of volunteers are expected to participate in the annual Ohio River Sweep, scheduled for this Saturday, June 16. The event is sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) and involves the cleanup of 3,000 miles of shoreline in six states.

Volunteers will comb the banks of the Ohio River and its many tributaries looking for trash and debris.

The state Department of Environmental Protection is coordinating West Virginia's participation in the River Sweep. Cleanups are scheduled at 21 sites in 11 counties: Brooke, Cabell, Hancock, Jackson, Marshall, Mason, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel and Wood. The DEP will provide cleanup supplies and T-shirts to volunteers.

A list of West Virginia's cleanup locations can be found at www.orsanco.org by clicking on "River Sweep."

DOP seminar is employee-driven

By Colleen O'Neill

On June 11, the state Division of Personnel brought its traveling Employee Relations Outreach Seminar to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Conducted at the DEP's Charleston headquarters, about 20 employees took part in the employee-driven get-together.

Steve Forsthye, senior personnel specialist with the DOP's Employee Relations Section, led the informal session, letting employees decide the topics of the question-and-answer gathering.

The topics open for discussion were the Family Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the American Disabilities Act, as well as the disciplinary and grievance procedures.

DEP employees asked Forsythe about the HAY project, which is the new classification system being developed for state employees.

Forsythe referred questions to the DEP's Debbie Hughes, in Human Resources.

There was also an animated discussion involving merit raises and the merit freeze. Forsythe explained that the merit system is more than money. It includes leave, the grievance resolution, and so forth.

Forsythe said employees can get on the State Personnel Board's docket to appeal and propose policies or rules by calling or writing a letter to Debbie Gibson, 304-558-3950. Rules and policies can be found on the DOP's Web site: www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/.

The DOP put on outreach seminars throughout the state to help state employees understand policies, rules, and laws.

BAY

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pollutant a body of water can receive and still meet its water quality standards.

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL grew out of a 2009 Executive Order from President Obama calling for the natural sustainability of the Bay Watershed — a six-state region that includes West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle.

The TMDL targets stream reductions of sediment, nitrogen and

phosphorus from sources such as agriculture, wastewater treatment facilities and storm water.

The EPA's Garvin said West Virginia's Phase II WIP "demonstrates substantial improvements compared to the Phase I WIP by providing additional information that clarifies how implementation will increase over time and the role of key partners in supporting these efforts."

The EPA evaluation also identifies key areas it expects West Virginia

to address in the next milestone period and through 2017.

States in the Bay Watershed have committed to having 60 percent of all pollution control measures in place by 2017 and full implementation by 2025.

"We are pleased the EPA has recognized the progress we are making in developing our state's strategy to deal with pollution issues in the Chesapeake Bay," Huffman said.

"Our agency and its many partners on this

project have worked extremely hard with the farming community, industry, municipalities and others in the Eastern Panhandle to come up with fair and practical ways to meet the EPA's pollution goals."

West Virginia's final Phase II WIP is available by visiting: www.wvca.us/bay. To see the EPA's evaluation go to: www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/tmdl/ChesapeakeBay/RestorationUnderway.html.

CHECK

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with personal problems. I wish people did not have to go through them. Hearing different

situations people go through really puts my job in perspective because money is not the most important thing in life.

10. All of us work to

earn a paycheck to support ourselves and our families. Do you take special pride in being so closely tied to that process?

Judy and I take great

pride to make sure that every single employee is paid correctly. Before payroll cutoff, Judy and I will proof all the entries made into the payroll system.