

2010 Environmental Awards

Honoring 'a job well done'

More than 100 people packed the Department of Environmental Protection's Coopers Rock Training Room for the 10th Environmental Awards Ceremony.

Forty recipients from around West Virginia were recognized for their environmental stewardship by Gov. Joe Manchin and DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman on May 24.

The recipients were nominated for the awards by DEP inspectors and other agency staffers.

"For all the things you're doing right, we want to say thank you for a job well done," Gov. Manchin said.

Award winners included state industries, municipalities, educators and community leaders, who



Representatives of the Elk River Cleanup receive the DEP Cabinet Secretary Award during the Environmental Awards ceremony on May 24 at DEP headquarters. Gov. Joe Manchin, Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman and DEP inspector Kevin Lilly, far left, present the group with a plaque. Lilly nominated the Elk cleanup for the honor.

See **JOB**, Page 10

Courses put people at ease about agency

By Tom Aluise

Terry Polen is taking the fear factor out of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Since last August, Polen, who works as the DEP's ombudsman, has been conducting a series of classes on environmental compliance at West Virginia University-Parkersburg (WVU-P).

Part of what makes the Compliance Seminar Series unique is that those attending are not required to provide their name or affiliation to Polen.

"This way, they can ask questions about



The DEP's Terry Polen was given an award of appreciation from WVU-Parkersburg.

anything, without fear of repercussions or an in-

See **COURSES**, Page 3

DEP tackling Bay pollution issues

By Tom Aluise

A federal push to protect and restore the thousands of streams, creeks and rivers that make up the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is encompassing West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle and giving the state Department of Environmental Protection a key role in developing the largest and most complex watershed pollution control plan ever.

In 2009, on the heels of President Obama's Executive Order that declared the Chesapeake Bay a



This illustration outlines the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

national treasure and called for the natural sustainability of its watershed, the U.S. Environmental Protec-

See **BAY**, Page 12



Lawrence Pierce/Charleston Gazette-Mail

DEP retiree Bill Simmons (left) and son, Will, want to help more people explore the Coal River in their fleet of rental kayaks and canoes.

He's retired on the river

Life after DEP keeping Bill Simmons on the water

By Rick Steelhammer

In his previous life as a Department of Environmental Protection inspector and supervisor, Bill Simmons spent a fair amount of his time coming up with ways to help restore the Coal River and keep it clean.

Now retired from the state agency, Simmons plans to maintain an even closer working relationship with the Coal. He is the operator of a new kayak and canoe rental business serving the Coal River watershed, including the 88-mile Walhonde Water Trail.

Coal River Kayak and Canoe Rental's fleet of 14 kayaks and six canoes is based at the Coal River Group's new education center in Meadowood Park at Tornado, next to the river's Upper Falls. Simmons and his son, Will, also provide shuttle service to and from the 17 ramps serving the Big Coal, Little Coal and main Coal River.

"Wherever people want to go on the Coal River water-

shed, we'll take them," said Simmons.

He's the first outfitter serving the Coal River since John and Dorris Walls closed their Coal River Canoe Livery in 2001.

"For years, we've been getting calls from people wondering if there was somewhere they could rent a canoe or a kayak on the Coal River," said Bill Currey, co-founder of the Coal River Group, a nonprofit organization promoting clean water and recreation in the Coal River watershed. "Now, we've got a new business started doing just that. It's one of the best examples of success the Coal River Group has had."

See RIVER, Page 5

DEP mom is voted the best

By Colleen O'Neill

"Twenty-five words are not enough to tell you how my mother, Maureen, has always been the World's Best Mom! She out-moms Kate Gosselin!"

Local radio station WMXE (Mix 100.9-FM) had a contest to find the world's best mom. The above entry was written by Matthew Clemons about his mom, Maureen. It won.

Listening to the radio on the way to work, Matthew heard about the contest and went on line on the first day entries were being accepted.

"He told me that he had after he did it," said Maureen, an office assistant with the Department of Environmental Protection's Emergency Response Unit at Elkview. "I was quite surprised that he took the time to do it."

What surprised Maureen even more was the number of people willing to vote for her.

"They announced on the radio for people to log on to vote; a lot of people listen to 100.9," Maureen said. "I was very happy that people cared enough to log on and vote."

Matthew Clemons is a counselor at the Mount Olive Correctional Center and has a master's in psychology from the Marshall University Graduate College.

Besides being able to tout the title of World's Greatest Mom, Maureen also became the proud owner of many cool prizes.

"I really got some neat things," she said.

Maureen received \$100 Visa gift cards; a \$50 gift certificate from C&C Fashions and Primitives in Nitro; 10 tanning sessions from Bigley Beach; \$100 in hair care products; a robe and bag from the EmbroidMe in the Kanawha Mall; tooth whitening, and a T-shirt.

"I also won a \$75 edible arrangement from Edible Arrangements in Hurricane. And my picture is in WMXE's gallery," Mau-



Clemons

See MOM, Page 7



Brian Tephabock, building coordinator for the DEP’s Fairmont office and a technical analyst with Air Quality, likes his office’s family atmosphere.

Friendly place in the ‘Friendly City’

■ **Editor’s note:** This is the fifth in a series of stories on DEP offices located around West Virginia.

By Tom Aluise

FAIRMONT — Brian Tephabock is certain the family atmosphere that’s a big part of the DEP’s Fairmont branch benefits not just its employees, but all who deal with the office — from the public to industry officials.

“There’s not a big story in me,” Tephabock said. “But I think this building has a big story.”

DEP staffers here said they make it a point to invest time in their co-workers both personally and professionally. That interaction creates an atmosphere where everyone



has an idea of what’s going on in each other’s lives and their jobs, said Tephabock, a technical analyst for the Division of Air Quality and the building coordinator for the Fairmont office.

“One of the things that many of us in the office feel is that we’re a very close-knit family,” Tephabock said. “That’s very important. That’s what sets us apart. I think we

See FRIENDLY, Page 7

COURSES

Continued from Page 1

spector showing up at their business the next week,” Polen said.

“I think this is really something neat the DEP has done,” he added. “We’re helping people to comply who really want to comply but are scared to ask us questions.”

Polen said many West Virginia businesses are intimidated by the DEP.

“This seminar series paints a good face on the agency,” Polen said. “It shows we’re not nameless bureaucrats, out there to shut down their business.”

Polen’s message to class attendees is that he’s there to help businesses understand and comply with state and federal environmental guidelines.

Polen encourages people to call him with questions in the future.

“If they end up with a positive feeling that, hey someone is going to help them, then that’s not a bad gig,” he said. “We want them to learn how to do things the right way.”

Polen has conducted classes on a variety of environmental topics including air permitting, hazardous air pollutants, NPDES sewer permitting, greenhouse gas rule updates and emission calculations.

Courses last all day and are conducted on the last Friday of each month. The cost is \$35, with lunch included. A typical class has 15 to 20 in attendance and includes representatives of business and industry of all sizes, from mom-and-pop operations to corporate giants.

Tom Lemon, director Technical Programs Workforce & Community Education at WVU-P, said industry officials attending Polen’s courses have been appreciative and responsive to the seminar series.

“These managers want information straight from the DEP, but they don’t want to ask the DEP directly,” Lemon said.

Polen provides that bridge to the agency.

“Terry Polen is the reason these seminars are such a success,” Lemon said. “His subject knowledge is astounding, and his ability to communicate allows participants to feel at ease.”

The idea for the seminar series actually came from a Parkersburg business, where Polen was working on compliance issues.

Officials at the business approached WVU-P’s Lemon about Polen offering a series of informative courses.

“What’s really neat is businesses show up and keep showing up, so they must be getting something out of this,” said Polen, who has courses scheduled through July.

No thanks on the snow showers

Jim Calvert is the Assistant Chief of Administration for the DEP. Among his duties are overseeing the fleet, purchasing, mail, front desk, outside and



Calvert

inside maintenance, inventory, leasing, copiers and safety. Calvert, who grew up in Beckley, began in state government in 1987 with the DNR. He's been with the DEP since its inception.



With Jim Calvert

1. How difficult is it keeping a building as large as DEP headquarters operating efficiently?

It's a handful but not difficult. The secret is surrounding oneself with good people. The Administrative Services (AS) section does so many things that people in the building don't see — unless we don't do it. AS has smart and talented people and we touch so many areas of DEP. General Services provides the inside and outside employees and we have developed a great relationship with them. When we all work together, it's like a well-oiled machine.

2. What are some of the problems that never seem to go away when dealing with the inside and outside maintenance of the building?

We have the normal issues, such as problems with the low flush toilets, problems with midges in the building, and the actuators that control air flow to individual offices. During the winter, snow

removal and ice control keep me awake at night. The worst thing is for someone to slip and fall. One problem that I hope has gone away is the "fishy" odor that seems to crop up every November.

3. What would you consider the most interesting aspect of DEP headquarters?

I think the most interesting aspect is the fact that DEP has West Virginia's first green building. We've been here long enough now that we forget about that. But students who visit us find it very interesting. They're also interested in the criteria that constitutes a "green" building. I'm also proud of what DEP is trying to do for the long-term good of all West Virginians. We have a lot of very intelligent people in this building and they are passionate about their work.

4. What is the most demanding part of your job?

I arrive at work each day at 6:30 but don't go on the clock until 7:30. I like to get in the office and make certain there aren't any major concerns prior to everyone arriving for work. My work is never the same on any given day, as something new always needs attention. I do a lot of walking and I am constantly mak-

ing decisions when asked to do so. So, when I leave here at 4, I am one whipped puppy.

5. How many copy machines does the agency have and how often do they break down?

DEP has 17 copiers and for the most part they work efficiently with minor break-downs. Skip Amole does a good job of keeping everything in working order.

6. What is the typical monthly electric bill for DEP headquarters?

The electric bill is part of our lease arrangement and is paid directly by The Department of Administration and we never see the bill until it is time to renegotiate the lease.

7. Would you answer the phones at the front desk if all our receptionists called in sick?

Only as a last resort. This past winter, we had that problem due to the road conditions and I saw my life flash before my eyes when I thought that Carol Leffew and I were going to have to answer the phones. I believe that the front desk is one of the most difficult jobs at DEP. It is a constant flow of visitors and calls and now that PEIA is in the building, the volume has increased by 25 percent. I wish everyone could spend a day at the front desk to see what a typical day is for the ladies at the front.

8. What was going through your mind when protestors chained themselves to our front doors last summer?

We knew the protestors were going to be on-site,

so we weren't surprised. But, the front desk called and told me I needed to come to the lobby immediately. I walked in and saw the three individuals chained to the door and I knew I had found my dream job at DEP. I tried and tried to get the protestors to unchain themselves, explaining that we didn't want to get the authorities involved. But they would not agree. About an hour later, when one young lady was practically choking herself, they finally agreed to unchain. I love days like that.

9. What did you do for DNR when you were hired in 1987?

I was an engineer and reviewed plans and specifications for wastewater treatment facilities and related construction activities, as well as inspect those facilities once construction began.

10. What do you do in your free time to relax?

I am a voracious reader and average 35 books per year. I am a die-hard WVU basketball and football fan. I either go to the games, watch on TV or, as a last resort, listen on the radio. I don't think I've missed a game in either sport for 10 or more years. In the winter, I like to ski. I have a friend with a condo at Snowshoe and I have an agreement with her to use the condo at my leisure. Finally, I like to travel. I'll go anywhere anytime and like to meet the locals once there. I've been to 36 of the 50 states and I am getting ready to leave for the Caribbean to visit my 28th and 29th islands — St Maarten and St. Barths.

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup draws 5,184 volunteers

The Adopt-A-Highway spring cleanup resulted in more than 400,000 pounds of trash collected and removed from West Virginia's roadways.

"We had a good turnout of volunteers willing

to help clean up and beautify West Virginia," said Anna Shahan, who coordinates the program for the DEP. "We had 5,184 volunteers who removed 432,748 pounds of trash, to be exact."

Volunteers came out in all 55 counties with 290 workers out in McDowell. Jefferson followed closely with 270 volunteers and Kanawha had 252. The most litter picked up was in Berkeley County, where volun-

teers collected 56,805 pounds of roadside debris. McDowell and Kanawha picked up 36,470 and 20,450 pounds respectively.

The 22nd annual fall cleanup is scheduled for Sept. 25.



Workers pick up trash along an access road into Beech Fork State Park during an effort to rid the park's surroundings of litter.

DEP spruces up around state park

By Tom Aluise

A collaborative effort that brought together several county and state agencies to clean up areas around Beech Fork State Park resulted in 47 tons of waste and 1,725 tires collected.

Efforts were spearheaded by the Department of Environmental Protection's REAP program and targeted the major roadways leading into the park,



which encompasses parts of Wayne, Lincoln and Cabell counties.

"It's very disheartening

See PARK, Page 6

Rebate program begins June 17

Beginning June 17, West Virginia residents can help the environment and their wallets at the same time.

The state's Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program begins that day and will offer state residents mail-in rebates on Energy Star-qualified clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and room air conditioners purchased from participating West Virginia retailers.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and is being administered in West Virginia by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Rebate funding will be provided by \$1.7 million in federal stimulus money. The program ends in February 2012 or when funds are depleted.

Rebate amounts are \$75 and \$50 for clothes washers; \$75 and \$50 for dishwashers; \$100 for refrigerators; \$25 for freezers; and \$20 for room air conditioners.

"We hope people will take advantage of this opportunity to spark West Virginia's economy and to improve our environment by reducing energy and water consumption and our own environmental footprint," said Greg Adolfson, DEP sustainability officer and coordinator of West Virginia's appliance rebate program.

"This program will help to conserve natural resources and save people money by using less electricity and water.

"It will also put more money back into your wallet."

RIVER

Continued from Page 2

Simmons, who had been canoeing the Greenbrier and other streams for some time, said he first started paddling on the Coal River in the mid-1980s.

"There was no one else on the Big Coal back then," he said.

During the 1990s, in his professional role with the DEP, he began taking a closer look at the watershed.

"We were starting to look at ways to mitigate valley fills," he said. "Some of the guys I worked with at Logan floated the river with me. We found a lot of fish in places with structure (exposed streambed rocks), and almost no fish and a lot of sand elsewhere."

Simmons took a stream improvement

class taught by David Rosgen, a Colorado stream morphologist who has designed large river restoration projects across the nation. After learning about methods that worked for Rosgen, "we came up with a plan for stream restoration structures that fit the Coal River watershed," he said.

Simmons said the Coal River is a productive stream for several species of bass. A strain of native West Virginia muskie has been stocked in the river and appears to be thriving. Brown trout fingerlings have been stocked in the Coal's headwaters, and appear to be doing well.

"Not long ago, someone caught a trout right here at the falls," he said.

After retiring from the DEP last October, Simmons decided to pursue

a second career in a field he enjoyed. "I like being out on the river. I wanted to stick with it when I retired."

Some of Simmons' rental boats are equipped with built-in rod holders, and all have attachable backrests. Coal River Kayak & Canoe Rental's fleet is a blend of tandem and single-paddler boats, built mainly by Perception and Old Town.

Simmons' new business caters mainly to those making self-guided trips.

Coal River Kayak & Canoe rents single-person canoes and kayaks for \$35 a day (\$60 for tandem boats) on weekends. On weekdays, the rate drops \$5 in each category. The rental rate includes shuttle service to most put-in and take-out points.

"If a group of two wants to go all the way to Whitesville, we'll have to charge a little more," Simmons said.

Simmons said he plans to offer rentals starting at \$20 for week-day trips after 4 p.m. that depart from the access point adjacent to the Coal River Group's building at Meadowood Park and end at Lower Falls, about six miles downstream.

The Coal River Group sponsors twice-monthly group trips covering different segments of the 88-mile Walkhonde Water Trail. The trip schedule and a map of the Walkhonde Water Trail are available at the CRG's Web site:

www.coalrivergroup.com
Coal River Kayak & Canoe Rental can be reached at 304-767-0531, or online at www.coalriverkayak.com



Work on the Beech Fork State Park cleanup project began in early April but the majority of the effort occurred on May 5 when several agencies joined forces.

PARK

Continued from Page 5

when you're driving into a state park and you see large amounts of trash, furniture ... whatever it may be," said Beech Fork Superintendent Matt Yeager, whose park attracts close to 400,000 visitors a year.

Work on the project began in early April and lasted about a month. The brunt of the cleanup was done on May 5 when several different organizations gathered at Beech Fork's office before fanning out on the park's access roads to collect waste. Among the project's participating groups were the DEP, Division of Natural Resources, Western Regional Jail Day Report Center, Lincoln County Commission Day Report Litter Crew, and the Wayne County Solid Waste Authority.

Greg Rote, REAP's program manager, said the scope of collaboration on the project was unprecedented and could lead to similar cleanups down the road.

REAP Chief Danny Haught was thrilled with the level of cooperation among the participating counties.

"It was very impressive to see three counties collaborating to clean up adjacent properties to Beech Fork," Haught said.

"These efforts are vital to West Virginia's tourism industry," Haught added. "We need to protect and preserve the environment, especially in and near our state parks."

Beech Fork's Yeager said some folks are doing just that.

"I've got to give credit to some of our neighbors here," he said. "They keep their areas very clean. A lot of people are trying to pitch in."

Chesapeake Energy pitches in



Chesapeake Energy partnered with the DEP's REAP program for a litter and dump cleanup this spring in areas of Wetzel County where heavy gas well drilling is occurring. REAP Project Manager Chuck Joseph said the company is striving to be a good neighbor. Chesapeake Energy donated \$15,000 to REAP to help with cleanup efforts.

Ohio River Sweep on deck

By Colleen O'Neill

An opportunity to help clean up West Virginia's portion of the Ohio River is fast approaching.

On June 19, the six states that make contact with the river are coming together in an effort to free

the waterway of debris as part of the Ohio River Sweep, sponsored by the

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO).

The states are Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"Last year, more than 20,000 tons of debris was collected across all six states," said the DEP's Travis Cooper, who coordinates West Virginia's Make It Shine program.

In West Virginia, all counties that border the Ohio River are involved in the cleanup. It starts with Hancock County in the Northern Panhandle and ends with Mason County.

Make It Shine will supply the necessary gloves, bags, and trash grabbers for all West Virginia sites. Each site coordinator is responsible for setting up their hauling/disposal.

"More than 21,000 volunteers from the six different states participated last year," Cooper said.

"In West Virginia, Brooke, Mason, Hancock and Wood counties had the most sites with probably the largest number of volunteers.

"I expect the number of volunteers to rise this year. "There seems to be a lot of interest so far; I have already had phone calls asking about the date and locations."





The Department of Environmental Protection has been in its leased, two-story Fairmont facility on Pleasant Valley Road for close to 11 years.

FRIENDLY

Continued from Page 3

benefit. And I think the public and industry benefit. We feel like we're very lucky here."

Whether it's a water question, an air question or an issue with environmental enforcement, a phone call to the DEP Fairmont office usually yields quick answers or direction — no matter who answers the call.

"We all have knowledge of each other's groups," said Tephabock, who has been with the agency 14 years and started in the Kanawha Valley. "Many of us have gone together on inspections and citizen complaint investigations. It's amazing how we interact and each individual's group interacts."

"I do think we're unique," said Janice Palmer, a secretary in Fairmont's EE office and a 28-year state employee. "These people are as important to me as my own family. We all get along really well. Sometimes we'll agree to disagree, but we all still get along well. And that carries over into the work realm."

Located just off Interstate 79 on Pleasant Valley Road in West Virginia's "Friendly City," the two-story Fairmont office — the building is leased, not owned by the agency — has been home to the DEP for about 11 years.

It is an alphabet soup bowl of DEP services. Its roughly 30 employees work in Air Quality, Division of Water and Waste Management permitting, Environmental Enforcement (dam safety, underground storage tanks, hazardous waste, water and waste), Land Restoration, REAP, Information Technology and the Youth Environmental Program.

Paul Benedum, who works



Top, EE secretary Janice Palmer says her co-workers are as important to her as her own family. Bottom, the sign outside the Fairmont office shows its scope of services.

out of Fairmont in the Landfill Closure Assistance Program, said the office's welcoming nature is especially beneficial to new employees who might be overwhelmed by the complexity of programs offered at the location.

"If you have an open environment, people will be comfortable walking up to you to ask questions," he said.

Brad Blaine covers much of the northern part of the state out of Fairmont for the Youth Environmental Program. Blaine said he's never experienced anything but cohesion and collaboration from his office mates.

"Everybody is willing to help

See FRIENDLY, Page 11

MOM

Continued from Page 2

reen said.

Her reign as World's Greatest Mom ends next Mother's Day, when she'll be dethroned by the next winner.

When asked if she was making any appearances, Maureen said, "Maybe I can get a reality show or do 'Dancing with the Stars.'"

"I do appear daily Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at a secret, undisclosed location somewhere in Elkview."

**New additions
Recent DEP hires**

- Niki Davis, REAP, May 3
- Tonya Mather, DWWM, May 3
- Robert Reed, DMR, May 3



Joe Manchin III

Governor

Randy Huffman

Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco

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Members of the Mountaineers 4-H Club, including their mascot Shadow, perform a cheer following the parade during Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park. Mason County's Hill Billie 4-H Club won the award for best parade cheer.

Youth Environmental Day

After rainy start, event ends brightly

By Tom Aluise

A rainy start to this year's Youth Environmental Day festivities on May 14-16 gave way to beautiful sunny weather.

After a Friday night storm drenched campers at North Bend State Park in Cairo, they were welcomed by clear skies and perfect temperatures for Saturday's main event, sponsored by the West Virginia DEP's Youth Environmental Program (YEP).

Close to 1,000 kids from across the state participated in this year's YED, where awards totaling more than \$11,000 were presented to youth for their participation in community environmental projects such as litter clean-ups and recycling drives.

Saturday activities also included a parade of youth groups, a hike, recycling crafts and a dance.

YEP Coordinator Diana Haid said it's vital to continue recognizing kids who are making a positive difference.

"They work all year long on projects that benefit their communities such as picking up litter, planting flowers and trees, testing water samples from local streams and providing food and shelter for wildlife," Haid said.

"It's an honor and privilege to present awards to these most deserving young people."

■ **YED award winners list, page 9**



There was a good turnout of Youth Environmental Day participants for the fishing derby at North Bend State Park's pond.



At left, Smokey Bear and friends greet YED campers. Right, the Highland Hawks were among several groups in the parade.

Youth Environmental Day award winners

Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship — Hannah Marie Wigal, Morristown Mountaineers 4-H Club.

West Virginia Forestlands and Wood Products Art Awards — Ronnie Bonecutter III, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County; Adrianna McCoy, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County; Cody Gallagher, Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County.

Sustainable Forestry Art Poster Awards — Adriane Sharp, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County; Melissa Ashman, Girl Scout Troop 4988, Roane County; Octavia Hunt, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County.

Maple Award (tree planting) — Midway Getters 4-H Club, Preston County.

Go-Mart Energy Essay Awards — Kya Bay, Dyer Pioneer 4-H Club, Webster County.

Bear Category Environmental Awards — Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County.

Litter Control Awards — Roadrunners 4-H Club, Mason County.

Mountain Laurel Category Environmental Awards — Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County.

Cardinal Art Poster Awards — Jonathan Ramey, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County; Faith Cook, Golden Stars 4-H Club, Mason County.

Rick Vecellio Memorial Art Poster Awards — Chase Walker, Country Critters 4-H Club, Putnam



Hannah Marie Wigal, left, receives the Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship from the DEP's Kathy Cosco.

County; Sarah Deem, Kountry Kritters 4-H Club, Mason County; Izabella King, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County; Kaitlyn Becker, Brownie Troop 4988, Roane County; Ashten Crank, Happy Hus-tlers 4-H Club, Mason County; Bayli Meighan, Cross Roads 4-H Club, Mason County; Christian Deem, Valley Mills Northern Lights 4-H Club, Wood County; Minyera Call, Cow Creek Hi Strivers 4-H Club, Putnam County; Haley Pier-son, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County; Matthew Tucker, Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County.

Gov. Joe Manchin Beautification Awards — Horner Busy Bees 4-H Club, Lewis County.

Keep West Virginia Beautiful Awards — Cairo Climbers 4-H Club, Ritchie County.

Mountain State Awards of Excellence, Environmental Projects — Roane-

Jackson Technical Center, FFA chapter, Jackson County.

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

Youth Environmental Hall of Fame Awards — Amanda Hawkins, Busy Bison 4-H Club, Marion County; Jared Powell, Belleville 4-H Club, Wood County.

Streams and Trails Awards — Cairo Climbers 4-H Club, Ritchie County.

Pepsi Cola District Awards — District 1, Mount Clare Mountaineers 4-H Club, Harrison County; District 2, Shining Stars 4-H Club, Jefferson County; District 3, Dyer Pioneer 4-H Club, Webster County; District 4, Hinton Helping Hands 4-H Club, Summers County; District 5, Clover Bears Cloverbuds 4-H Club, Mason County; District 6, Pond Creek Panthers 4-H

Club, Wood County.

Environmental Achievement Awards — Shooting Sports Specialty Club, Wood County.

Rhododendron Category Environmental Awards — Lucky Leaf 4-H Rhododendron Club, Randolph County.

Recycling Awards — Clover Bears Cloverbuds 4-H Club, Mason County.

Wildlife Management Awards — Boy Scout Troop 32, Crew 32, Hampshire County.

Recycling Education and Awareness Awards — All 4 One 4-H Club, Fayette County.

Save Our Streams Award — Morristown Mountaineers 4-H Club, Wirt County.

Kroger Plastic Recycling Awards — Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County.

Environmental Education Awards — Jersey Mt. Workers 4-H Club, Hampshire County.

Watershed Preservation Awards — Roane-Jackson Tech Center, FFA Chapter, Jackson County.

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

North Bend Clean & Green Litter Control Awards — Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County.

West Virginia State Parks Superintendents Association Awards — Boy Scout Troop 250, Kanawha County.

Best Parade Yell-Cheer Award — Hill Billie 4-H Club, Mason County.

Junior Conservation Camp hits maximum number

Up next for the DEP's Youth Environmental Program is the state Junior Conservation Camp, set for June 21-25 at Ripley's Cedar Lakes.

YEP Coordinator Diana Haid said the camp, which is open to youth ages 11-14, is full.

"The maximum number of campers I can take is 216 and we are at the limit," she said. "The only way I can take more is if some cancel."

The camp offers a wide variety of classes that will enhance the campers' knowledge of the environment and enable them to become good stewards of our natural resources.

Classes include forestry, wildlife, archery, water study, recycling, hunter education, fishing and many others.

Sports activities include kickball, basketball, volleyball and more.

Spots still available for State Conservation Camp

The West Virginia State Conservation Camp is still accepting applications. Young people between the ages of 14 and 18 are eligible for the camp, which is sponsored, in part, by the WVDEP.

The dates are June 14-19 at Camp Caesar near Cowen, W.Va.

The focus of the camp is to teach young people about West Virginia's natural resources and how to be responsible stewards of the environment. Participants spend the week learning about West Virginia's natural resources in a block-schedule format that provides a total of 12 hours of instruction by the week's end.

For more information and to register, contact Alan Miller, camp secretary/treasurer (phone: 304-358-3298; mail: HC 32 Box 33, Upper Tract, WV 26866) or go to: www.wvconservationcamp.com.

2010 Environmental Awards

Award categories and recipients include: **Underground Storage Tank (UST), Most Improved** – Terra-Petro Development Inc., CC Marts; **UST Class A Certified Worker** – Dennis Huff, Sam Huff Contractors Inc.; **UST Class B Certified Worker** – Michael A. Miller, Miller Environmental Inc.; **UST Class C Certified Worker** – Edward Kubinsky Jr., Crompco LLC.; **UST Class D Certified Worker** – Phillip Stone, Superior Testing Services Inc.; **UST Class E Certified Worker** – Robert Howie, RHCP Services; **UST** – Holtzman Oil Co.; Prima Marketing, Prima Stores.

Hazardous Waste Corrective Action – Private Trucking Operations, Union Carbide Corp., Dow Chemical; **Industry Greater than 100 Employees** – Cytec Industries Inc., Willow Island; **Industry Less than 100 Employees** – C/O Consolidated Hydro Southeast Inc., Gauley River Power Partners; **Municipal Landfill** – S&S Landfill; Greenbrier County Landfill; **Hazardous Waste Generators** – Armstrong Hardwood Flooring, Beverly Plant.

Sewage Treatment Plant Greater than 400,000 GPD, Most Improved – Warm Springs PSD, Berkeley Springs Wastewater Plant; Red Sulphur PSD, Red Sulphur Wastewater Treatment Plant; Parkersburg Utility Board; **Sewage Treatment Plant Greater than 400,000 GPD** – Greenbrier PSD No. 2, Wastewater Treatment Plant; Crab Orchard MacArthur PSD; **Sewage**

Treatment Plant Less than 400,000 GPD – Harpers Ferry/Bolivar PSD; Town of Capon Bridge, Capon Bridge Wastewater Plant.

Land Use Development – Kanawha Electric & Machine Co.; **Environmental Stewardship** – Barry Milam, Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association; Kanawha County Commission; Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority; **Brownfields and Voluntary Program** – City of Parkersburg, Bureau of Public Debt (former CSX depot); **Education and Community Involvement** – Melissa Stewart, West Virginia State University Extension Service; Bob Bennett, Greenbrier County Solid Waste Authority, Greenbrier Recycling Center; Amanda Sullivan, West Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Environmental Volunteers of the Year – Abby Chapple, Friends of the Cacapon River; Patricia Spangler, Fayette County Schools; Teresa Nelson, Beaver Creek Beavers 4-H Club; Brenda Miller, Busy Bison 4-H Club; Eric Autenreith, Plateau Action Network; **Safe Dams Award** – Civil Tech Engineering Inc., Mark Pennington; **Clean Energy Award** – Coaltec Energy/Frye Poultry; **Outstanding Litter Control Officer** – Jimmy M. Stone, Raleigh County; **Environmental Partnership** – West Virginia University, Marshall University Brownfields Assistance Centers; **DEP Cabinet Secretary Award** – Elk River Cleanup.

JOB

Continued from Page 1

strive to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors and educate the state's citizens.

Businesses and municipalities that have demonstrated exemplary performance over the last two years, have compliance records that reflect no outstanding violations and have a record of cooperation with regulatory authorities are eligible to be nominated by DEP staff.

Individuals are also nominated for the awards, including those who volunteer with local civic organizations, youth groups or watershed associations.

This year's DEP Cabinet Secretary Award went to organizers of the Elk River Cleanup.

The ongoing effort in Braxton County has resulted in the removal of more than 130 tons of solid waste over the last three years from a 29-mile stretch of the Elk River.

Braxton County teenagers Lauren Spencer and her brother, Matt Spencer, as well as their grandmother, Nancy Spencer, were the primary individuals responsible for the project.

Farm fare Farmer's Market offerings are popular with busy DEP staff

By Colleen O'Neill

Baskets filled with fresh green beans. Boxes of cucumbers, dark green and ready to be skinned and sliced for eating. Bags of reddish grapes, a sweet and refreshing snack.

Those were some of the fresh fruit and vegetable offerings provided at the first Farmer's Market at the Department of Environmental Protection headquarters.

The Farmer's Market is scheduled to be a weekly occurrence. And, as the summer progresses, most of the offerings will be locally grown West

Virginia produce.

Approximately 150 DEP employees took advantage of the first market.

"It's something I wanted to do here for a long time," said Teresa Weaver, the agency Wellness Coordinator.

Weaver got the idea from the Capitol Complex, which started hosting the Farmer's Market a few years ago.

"I thought that it would be something the employees would enjoy. It's really impractical to expect employees, who are only trying to be healthy and eat right, to take time off work, drive



The DEP's Annette Bennett is one of many to pay a visit to the Farmer's Market outside of headquarters.

to the Capitol Complex, shop and buy produce, and then drive back to DEP -- that's at least half the day."

The Farmer's Market will be open every Thursday, rain or shine,

See FARM, Page 12

What's next

- June — Professional Wellness month; Walking program (call Teresa Weaver, 1580).
- June 7-8, 9-10 — Sustainability 101, Environmental Management workshops, DEP headquarters (call Greg Adolfsen, 1332).
- June 9, 23 — Kanawha County Mobile Library, Kanawha Mall, 11 a.m.-1p.m.
- June 10, 17, 24 — Farmers' Market, DEP headquarters, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (call Teresa Weaver, 1580).
- June 14-18 — State Conservation Camp, Cowen (call Brad Blaine, 3731).
- June 17 — CPR/AED training, 8 a.m.-noon, DEP Headquarters; First Aid training, 1-4:30 p.m., DEP Headquarters (call Tammy Canterbury, 1669).
- June 21-25 — Junior Conservation Camp, Cedar Lakes (call Diana Haid, 1114).
- June 29 — CPR/AED training, 8 a.m.-noon, DEP Headquarters; First Aid training, 1-4:30 p.m., DEP Headquarters.
- July 10-24 — Corporate Cup competition (call Dan Roberts, 1210).
- Sept. 17 — Children's Water Festival, Marshall Graduate College, South Charleston (call Rose Long, 1036).
- Sept. 22 — DEP Employee Appreciation Event picnic, Little Creek Park. (call Kenna DeRaimo, 1544).

FRIENDLY

Continued from Page 7



Blaine



Wolfe

each other out," Blaine said. "All you have to do is ask."

That cooperation is vital for a small staff that is kept extremely busy.

Tephabock said Air Quality alone receives about 150 complaints a year. Fairmont's EE office gets nearly double that amount in a year.

"We're extremely busy," said Brad Swiger, the inspector supervisor for EE in Fairmont.

"Although we specialize in solid waste and water, we get involved in so many other things."

Last fall, a major fish kill on 30 miles of Dunkard Creek along the West Virginia-Pennsylvania border commanded the full attention of Swiger's staff. A bloom of toxic alien algae was ultimately found to be linked to the fish kill.

"That's been one of the worst disasters we've experienced in the northwest region," Swiger said. "For about a month, we lived it day-to-day, eight to 10 hours a day, including weekends."

One challenge Fairmont faces is finding enough personnel to cover all the issues, Tephabock said.

"But we can distribute some of those issues among more than a couple of inspectors and they become less of a challenge," he said.

Delbert Shriver, a senior engineer for dam safety, grew up near the Fairmont office where he now works.

Shriver is one of four non-coal dam engineers who cover the entire state for DEP.

"Here, someone is always talking to someone," said Shriver, a 20-year state government employee.

"The more we talk to each other, the better we can lead people in the right direction."

Shriver has an especially keen appreciation for his co-workers. Two years ago, his home burned to the ground. He lost essentially everything.

"That was a life-changing event and these people were great," Shriver said.

"The day of the fire, almost half of the people from the office showed up out there. Almost everyone ended up out there at one time or another to see if I needed anything — from food to clothes



When dam engineer Delbert Shriver's home burned down a couple of years ago, his co-workers in the Fairmont office rallied to his cause.

to shoes. Whatever we needed, someone offered it to us."

Palmer said the office just took over.

"We did whatever we could to ease that for him," she said. "We're one big support system. We celebrate the good things and we're there for each other in times of need. We kind of feel each other's bumps along the way."

Swiger said a family-first philosophy creates a positive work environment in Fairmont.

"I think we've adopted the opinion that if there are issues in the family, as much as you try not to bring them to work, you still do," said Swiger, in his 28th year with the state.

"We've evolved to the point where we recognize that, to do your job effectively, you have to deal with family first.

"We're involved in each other's families. We know each other's kids' names. We know when they graduate from college. We know when there's a death in the family and when there's an illness.

Eventually, it comes back around to you. Everybody has navigated through these land mines in life and we recognize that as a reality."

Stan Wolfe, an inspector in EE, will never forget the support he received when one of his parents passed away. Close to one-third of his co-workers showed up at the funeral.

"I can't tell you how good that made me feel," Wolfe said.

Said Swiger, "This is a pleasant environment to work in. There is no hostility toward anybody. There is no sense that someone is trying to hurt someone else or get them in trouble. We take time to pause and enjoy each other's company."

FARM

Continued from Page 10

year round. If it's sunny out, like it was on May 20 for the debut, the market will be located by the picnic tables in the back of the building. During inclement weather and during the winter, the Cooper's Rock break room will be the site for shopping.

"This was all made possible by the West Virginia Wellness Council," Weaver said. "I worked with Patty Deutsch of the Wellness Council and got us the funding.

"The Wellness Council put us in touch with farmers Henry and Kay Bender of H&S Farms. He has been farming all of his life; he grew up



Close to 150 DEP employees took advantage of the Farmer's Market during its debut at DEP headquarters in May.

on a farm in Braxton County.

"He is licensed and was recommended by the attorney general's office."

Employees enjoy being able to buy fresh

produce without having to go somewhere else.

"You don't have to stop at the store on the way home. My family has enjoyed green beans, corn on the cob and new potatoes," said

Sheri Richardson, of Human Resources.

Employees with the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Public Employees Insurance Agency are welcome to take advantage of the Farmer's Market, as well.

In the words of Elaine Ransom of Human Resources, "I love it. It's the best thing to happen to DEP this year."

Some offerings are: red and green tomatoes, asparagus, green beans, peaches, red and white new potatoes, nectarines, green bell peppers, red raspberries, cucumbers, blueberries, corn, squash, zucchini, cabbage, bananas, watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries and grapes.

BAY

Continued from Page 1

tion Agency announced its intention to produce, by the end of 2010, a Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment.

The scope of the Bay TMDL — the maximum amount of a pollutant a body of water can receive and still meet its water quality standards — is enormous. It involves a 64,000-square-mile watershed that includes six states and deals with the effects on water quality from 17 million people, 88,000 farms, 483 significant treatment plants and thousands of smaller facilities.

Eight West Virginia Eastern Panhandle counties — Pendleton, Grant, Mineral, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan Berkeley and Jefferson — are part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Potomac River, which flows through the Eastern Panhandle, drains into the Bay.

West Virginia's task, for now, is completing and submitting to the EPA by September phase one of a Watershed Implementation Plan for the Eastern Panhandle region. The plan will be used by the EPA in the development of

the Bay TMDL. Phase two of the plan is due in June 2011.

"The Watershed Implementation Plan is a way for each state to write its own details into the Chesapeake Bay TMDL," said Alana Hartman, Potomac Basin Coordinator for the DEP's Division of Water and Waste Management. "In November, the EPA sent out an official letter that detailed in 36 pages everything that has to be in the plan. At that point, we started meeting monthly to work on the plan."

Once a month, Hartman facilitates meetings of the West Virginia Bay TMDL Planning Group. Representatives from the DEP, West Virginia Conservation Agency, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Cacapon Institute and The Conservation Fund-Freshwater Institute are regulars at the meetings. All have a part in the development of the Watershed Implementation Plan, which will be officially submitted by the DEP and then subject to public comment.

Although work on the implementation plan has been ongoing, Hartman said it will pick up steam in July when the EPA provides states with data, such as basin-wide target

loads for nitrogen and phosphorous. The Bay TMDL will include reductions of these nutrients from sources such as agriculture, wastewater treatment plants, permitted storm water sources and non-point storm water runoff. The reductions are necessary to achieve water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity and chlorophyll, which is a measure of algae.

"The EPA is being strict about what is contained in the implementation plan," Hartman said. "It has to include things we can back up with regulations and ordinances. We have to be sure that the non-point source measures we propose have something backing them up. We have to propose point-source measures too and ask wastewater treatment plants to put out less nitrogen and phosphorus.

"We have to write a state plan that will have reasonable assurance that cap loads will be met for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment," Hartman said. "The hard part for me is imagining strategies that are reasonably assured for non-point sources."

The state plan also will include a timeline to show when key actions will be implemented; a contingency strategy in case

some actions don't work; sections on tracking and accountability; and a section to account for growth.

States in the Bay Watershed have committed to having all pollution control measures in place no later than 2025.

Hartman said government officials, developers and municipalities in the Eastern Panhandle are eager to learn more about the Bay TMDL and what impact it will have on them and their constituents.

"They really do seem interested," she said. "They want to know what their obligations are."

Discussions among politicians and others have already begun regarding the potential high costs to wastewater treatment facilities to meet new regulations on nutrient discharges. There is also speculation that other parts of West Virginia, such as the Ohio River Valley, will ultimately face federal mandates to reduce nutrient loads into the state's waters.

Hartman said this isn't just an Eastern Panhandle issue for West Virginia.

"Everybody should care," she said.

"Theoretically, the rest of the 55 counties in West Virginia will face this at some point."