

Agency honors award winners

Annual Environmental Awards of Excellence go to 21 recipients

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman presented 21 Environmental Awards of Excellence on May 28 during a ceremony at DEP headquarters in Charleston.

The DEP's annual Environmental Awards recognize the accomplishments of state industries, municipalities, educators and community



Mike King, of the Morris Creek Watershed Association, accepts the Cabinet Secretary Award on behalf of his group. Along with Secretary Randy Huffman, is the DEP's Tomi Bergstrom.

leaders who strive to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors and educate

the state's citizens. The awards are presented to those who share in the DEP's mission of promoting a healthy environment and practice environmental stewardship.

"We look forward every year to honoring those who share in our agency's commitment toward a cleaner, healthier environment, as well as showcasing the hard work they do to make our state a better place to live and work," Secretary Huffman said.

Eligibility for industrial awards includes exemplary environmental

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The DAQ's R.A. Mullins had interest from all age groups at the penny crushing machine.

Chillin' at Youth Day ... literally

The calendar said "May 17" but the weather at this year's 51st annual Youth Environmental Day had an October feel to it.

The chill in the air, though, was warmed by jackets and the enthusiasm of close to 1,000 youngsters and their families who turned out at North Bend State Park in Ritchie County. More than \$15,000 in awards was presented to youth groups from throughout the

state for their efforts during the year in promoting a healthy environment through activities such as recycling, litter cleanups and tree plantings.

Youth Day is sponsored by the DEP's Youth Environmental Program, under the direction of Diana Haid.

For more Youth Day photos, see Page 5. For a list of Youth Day award winners and sponsors, see Page 6.

IRIS project is moving ahead with same goals

By Tom Aluise

The DEP's IRIS initiative is moving forward, albeit with new players and a different structure.

In December 2012, the agency entered into a contract with CGI Technologies and Solutions to revamp both the DEP's Environmental Resource Information System (ERIS) and Environmental Quality Information System (EQuIS). The plan was to create a more integrated electronic data information system that would be easier to use agency-wide and more efficient. Thus, the Integrated Regulatory Information System (IRIS) project was born.

Earlier this year, however, costs became prohibitive for the project to move forward

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ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Roger White, an inspector with the DEP's Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation, snapped this photo after contractors, working on a grouting project in a residential section of east Fairmont, drilled into a waterline.

"The underground utilities in the area had been marked, but there was no indication of the presence of this one," White said.

When firefighters showed up, they indicated they could see the gushing water from their station.

"It was shooting what looked to be about 60 feet into the air," White said.

"I have no idea how much water was lost, but it took about an hour and a half for the city utility crew to stop the water."

Got an interesting photo from the field that you'd like to share? Send it to: Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov

DEP Retirements

Frances Browning

Division of Mining and Reclamation

Last day: July 16, 2014

Years of service: 39

Ed Burdette

Division of Water and Waste Management

Last day: July 31, 2014

Years of service: 23

WINNERS

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performance and a record of compliance with regulatory authorities for the 2013 calendar year. Facilities were nominated by the DEP inspectors who work to ensure their compliance with the law. Other Environmental Award winners were nominated by DEP personnel who work with volunteer and other community-based efforts.

Following is a list of this year's honorees:

Clean Energy — IGS CNG Services (South Charleston).

Sewage Treatment Plant Greater Than 400,000 GPD — Bluefield-Ada Wastewater Treatment Plant; City of Beckley Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Industry Less Than 100 Employees — Leslie Equipment (Cowen).

Industry Greater Than 100 Employees — Weyerhaeuser Co. (Heaters).

Municipal Landfill — Raleigh County Landfill-Raleigh County SWA (Beckley).

Education and Community Involvement — The Highland School Hawks (Ellenboro); Mark Bollinger, National Park Service (Glen Jean); Davis Creek Watershed Association (Charleston); Girl Scouts Black Diamond Council (Charleston).

Safe Dams — WVDNR-Berwind Lake Dam (South Charleston).

Environmental Partnership — West Virginia Recycling Services (Charleston); Kanawha County Solid Waste Authority (Charleston).

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Earl Ray Tomblin

Governor

Randy Huffman

Cabinet Secretary

Kelley Gillenwater

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Marshall football Coach Doc Holliday, along with players Chris Jasperse and Rakeem Cato, spent a recent lunch hour interacting with and answering questions from DEP employees.

THE DOC IS IN

Marshall football coach, players make stop at DEP headquarters

Close to 100 people stopped by the DEP's Coopers Rock Room for lunch on May 22 to listen to a special guest.

Marshall football Coach Doc Holliday, along with offensive lineman Chris Jasperse and quarterback Rakeem Cato, met with DEP employees to talk about the upcoming season and lofty expectations that await the Thundering Herd.

Marshall is coming off a 10-win season that included a victory over Maryland in the Military Bowl.

Several key players, including Jasperse and Cato, return from the



The DEP's Brent Kessinger collects autographs from Herd players Chris Jasperse and Rakeem Cato.

2013 Herd roster.

The players and coach also signed autographs and posed for pictures with agency employees.

The visit was arranged by the DEP's Ed Hamrick, a former Marshall kicker and brother of Herd Athletic Director Mike Hamrick.

River cleanup

Ohio River sweep in June

By Tom Aluise

West Virginians can do their part in keeping the Ohio River clean during the annual Ohio River Sweep, sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO).

This year's River Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, June 21.



Each year, close to 20,000 volunteers from six states that border the Ohio River work to collect trash and other debris from the banks of the river and its tributaries.

The cleanup encompasses the entire length of the river, from its origin in Pittsburgh to its end in Cairo, Ill.

In West Virginia, cleanups are scheduled in Brooke, Cabell, Hancock, Marshall, Mason, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel and Wood counties.

Travis Cooper, of the DEP's REAP program, is coordinating West Virginia's efforts, which includes cleanups at 19 sites in 10 counties.

REAP will provide cleanup supplies and T-shirts to volunteers.

For more information, contact Cooper at: Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov call 1-800-322-5530, ext. 1117, or visit: www.orsanco.org.



ARRI Award

The DEP Division of Mining and Reclamation, in cooperation with the Office of Surface Mining, awarded the first of two 2014 state-level Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Excellence in Reforestation Awards to Logan County's Whitman Surface Mine on May 23. The surface mining permit is 368.33 total acres. Whitman Surface Mine operates under Alex Energy Inc., a subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources.

Junior Conservation Camp

At \$34 a day, camp is a bargain

Event influenced career choice for DNR employee

By Alec Neu

Every year, children ages 11-14 are invited to a fun-filled summer camp located at Cedar Lakes in Ripley.

Conducted by the West Virginia DEP's Youth Environmental Program, Junior Conservation Camp allows children to enjoy many activities, while exploring and gaining knowledge about the environment.

For five days, the kids take a wide variety of classes to learn about nature, wildlife, forestry, solid waste management, and other environmental issues.

Instructors come from multiple state agencies, including the Division of



Youngsters attending the annual Junior Conservation Camp make memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Natural Resources, Forestry, the WVU Extension Service, the Conservation Agency, and the DEP.

Many summer camps can be costly to parents, but the Junior Conservation Camp has an all-inclusive fee of \$170. This provides admission into the camp, food, and lodging

for all five days. That is an average of only \$34 a day for campers to discover all the wonderful aspects of nature.

When the activities are finished, the kids can engage in sporting activities such as basketball, kickball, miniature golf, relay races, volleyball, and

more. Echoes of laughter and cheer can be heard as campers root for their teammates and join in on the fun.

"It definitely affected my decisions for a career," said Krista Snodgrass, who is a Public Information Specialist for the state DNR.

Snodgrass joined the local 4-H Club when she was 9 years old, where her mother is still a leader, and became involved in the Youth Environmental Program, as well as Junior Conservation Camp, as the years progressed.

"I have always been involved in the outdoors," she said. "I went as many years to the camp as I was allowed to attend."

When speaking about her involvement, she

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Reward and Recognition

Anthony Brown, who works out of the Office of Administration in Charleston, was honored recently with a Reward and Recognition certificate during an employee awards ceremony.

Following the resignation of the agency's leave coordinator, Brown stepped up to make sure that leave was processed every day until a replacement could be selected.

He took over scanning and indexing each document into an imaging system. In addition, he continued to process all payroll entries.

Brown is among the first to arrive at work each morning and among the last to leave at the end of the day.

He has only been with the agency a short amount of time and remains eager to learn not only his job, but volunteers to take on other duties as well.

From the DEP Safety Committee

The silent killer ...

Four things that can happen right before a heart attack:

- Pain
- Nausea and sweating
- Breathing issues
- Digestive issues

If any of these symptoms present themselves or become worse, please go to the hospital.

Heart attacks are called the "silent killer" because there may be no advance warning. Contributing



factors to heart disease are sugar, fat and processed foods. Other contributing factors are high cholesterol, stress, high blood pressure, smoking and lack of exercise.

What can you do to try and prevent a heart attack?

- a) Try to keep your blood pressure under 150.
- b) If you smoke — QUIT!
- c) Get regular exercise, 30 minutes per day is ideal.
- d) Find a release for the stress in your life.
- e) Cut out sugar and refined carbs (the white stuff in your diet), potatoes and fried foods.
- g) Lose weight. Losing just 10 percent of your weight can make a significant difference.

Following these guidelines will result in fewer headaches and aches and pains in general and give you an overall feeling of well being.

Check with your doctor before making any dietary changes that may influence how your medication works for you.

Youth Day 2014



The annual Youth Environmental Day, conducted at North Bend State Park, also includes camping, a dance and other fun activities for the state's youth groups enrolled in the DEP's Youth Environmental Program. But Saturday morning and afternoon is the centerpiece of the weekend.

Exhibits set up by DEP staff and other state agencies educate and entertain young and old alike. Youth groups participate in a parade to the awards ceremony and, once there, many of those same groups and individuals are included in awards and scholarships that total more than \$15,000.

On the following page is a list of those award winners.



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 – Joshua Slocum, Boy Scout Troop 32 & Crew 32, Hampshire 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 – Isiah Ash, Center Point Flyers 4-H Club, Doddridge County (grade school winner); Nathan Doll, Hotshots Shooting Sports 4-H Club, Doddridge County (middle school winner); Adrianna McCoy, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason 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 – Kamille Bonecutter, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$150 award is presented for the poster that expresses ideas on Sustainable Forestry.

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

Go-Mart Corporation Energy Essay Award – Barrett Dudding, Cow Creek Hi Strivers 4-H Club, Putnam County. These \$100 and \$125 awards are presented for a winning essay titled, "Energy Options and Ways to Conserve Energy."

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

Litter Control Award – Mount Clare Mountaineers 4-H Club, Harrison County. This \$300 award is presented to a youth group that has completed the most successful litter cleanup projects.

Mountain Laurel Category Environmental Award – Midway Getters 4-H Club, Preston County. This \$500 award is presented to a youth group that has completed



Rick Vecellio Memorial Scholarship winner Joshua Slocum is pictured with the DEP's Kelley Gillenwater.

projects addressing an environmental need, whose members are ages 6-11.

Cardinal Art Poster Awards – Anna Schles, Girl Scout Troop 4 & 7, Kanawha County; Luke Sturgeon, Roadrunners 4-H Club, Mason County. Posters must depict an environmental theme. Winners receive either a scholarship to Junior Conservation Camp or State Conservation Camp.

Rick Vecellio Memorial Art Poster Awards – Tra (Alex) Bryan, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County; Julia Parsons, Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County; Josie Hill, Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County; Michael King, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County; Keilee Smith, Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County. Each winner presented with \$100 for poster that depicts an environmental theme.

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin Beautification Award – Highland School Hawks, Ritchie County. This \$500 award is presented to the youth group that completes the most outstanding job of community litter prevention, cleanup and beautification.

Keep West Virginia Beautiful Award – Bridge Creek Bandits 4-H Club, Putnam County. This \$300 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 – Hobo's Cloverbuds, Mason County. This \$200 award is presented to the kindergarten group that completes the most outstanding environmental projects.

Youth Environmental Hall of Fame Awards – Adrianna

McCoy, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County; Brad Chattin, Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County. These \$200 awards are presented to an outstanding girl and boy nominated based on their extensive involvement in their club's community environmental activities.

Streams and Trails Award – Sharp Shooters 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$300 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 – Mount Clare Mountaineers 4-H Club, Harrison County; Greensburg Go-Getters 4-H Club, Berkeley County; Horner Busy Bees 4-H Club, Lewis County; Hinton Helping Hands 4-H Club, Summers County; South Charleston High School; Kanawha County; Belleville 4-H Cloverbuds, Wood County. These \$200 awards are given to youth groups in each of the six districts in recognition of their overall community environmental efforts.

Environmental Achievement Award – Boy Scout Troop 129 and Cub Scout Pack 129, Wood County. This \$300 award is presented to a newly enrolled youth group that has shown the most progress through participation in community environmental projects.

Rhododendron Category Environmental Award – Belleville 4-H Club, Wood 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 Award – Sand Hill Explorers 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$300 award is presented to a youth group with the best overall recycling projects.

Wildlife Management Award – Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County. This \$300 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 – Mountaineers 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$300 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 – Highland School Hawks Conservation Club, Ritchie County. This \$300 award is given to the youth group whose project(s) meets the goals of the Save Our Streams Program.

DuPont Washington Works Plastic Recycling Award – Fairview 4-H Club, Wood County. This \$300 award is presented to the youth group that has completed the most exceptional project(s) that integrate recycling a variety of plastics.

Environmental Education Award – Busy 4's 4-H Club, Mason County. This award is presented to the youth group that has completed the most outstanding work in environmental education.

Watershed Protection Award – Roane-Jackson Technical Center FFA Chapter, Jackson County. This \$300 award is presented 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.

REAP Recycling Power Point Presentation Award – Haer Bears 4-H Club, Mason County. This award was created for those youth groups wishing to step up their involvement in environmental activities by creating a Recycling Power Point Presentation.

North Bend Clean & Green Award – Cub Scout Pack 47, Wood County. This \$200 award is presented to the youth group that completes the most outstanding job of helping keep North Bend State Park clean and green.

West Virginia State Parks Superintendents Association Award – Go-Getters 4-H Club, Mason County. This \$300 award was established by the late Steve Boler, superintendent of Pipestem, to foster relationships between local youth groups and state parks, forests and wildlife management areas.



The DEP's Terry Polen spent part of his mission trip to Haiti working in an eye clinic in the village of Mizak, where some villagers walked hours to seek help.

Mission trip

DEP employee visits one of the world's poorest countries

By Colleen O'Neill

Imagine living with no running water or electricity, no showers or toilets, no lights or heating or cooling.

That is life in Haiti. The tiny Caribbean island nation is ranked among the poorest in the world. Haiti has a poverty rate of 77 percent which is more than five times the rate of poverty in America. The majority of residents live in abject poverty.

Terry Polen and his 17-year-old daughter, Rachel, spent two weeks there earlier this year on a mission trip. They were part of an eight-person team.

"My daughter and I went to Haiti originally thinking that we were going to build an orphanage," said Polen, who is the Department of Environmental Protection's ombudsman. "That changed and we ended up conducting an eye clinic. We were like, 'OK, whatever you need.'"

In the mountain village of Mizak, there were very few vehicles and the roads were basically dirt trails. People traveled by donkey, by walking, or by small motorcycle — usually with four or five people piled on.

"The people were so thankful, and most people we saw had never owned a pair of glasses," Polen said. "At the clinic, we saw one man who had been walking since 3 in the morning, and he didn't get to the clinic until late morning."



This villager proudly displays a DEP T-shirt given to him by Terry Polen, who said the man considered the piece of clothing as brand new.



The eye clinic in Mizak, where the Polens worked, had no roads leading to it, only paths, and consisted of two rooms, plus an outhouse.

The mountain medical clinic (Polen referred to it with a grin as their "Level 1 trauma center") consisted of two rooms and an outhouse. There was no road to it, only paths.

Food was not in abundance. People eat once or twice a day.

"They fed us well by Haitian standards," Polen said. "We ate two

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IRIS

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and the contract with CGI was ended.

The new IRIS project still has integration of information, better reporting capabilities and improved data quality among its goals. But it is being implemented in-house, using a different structure and software and with more voices involved in the process.

An Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Implementation Team and Quality Assurance Team are all part of the effort.

"We're trying to involve more people and give them a voice," said Neil Chakrabarty, who works out of the DEP's Information Technology Office and is one of the project's designers.

"We're taking more of a democratic approach in all of our decisions."

That approach includes letting each agency office and division decide for itself how IRIS can best benefit its operations or whether it wants to change at all.

"We're giving control to the offices, rather than imposing an order on them," Chakrabarty said. "But we're also guiding their efforts to help them make good decisions."

One of those decisions would be choosing the best software for an office or division. The new IRIS Business Model, which includes a central hub for all electronic data, is being developed and will allow for an easier transition to whatever software an office or division might choose as it strives for more quality data.

"We're looking at a more cost-effective and better solution," Chakrabarty said. "Now, we will seek the best software for each office and we'll achieve the integration goal through the Business Model layer."



March Employee of the Month

Laura Cooper, from the Office of Oil and Gas, was named the agency’s Employee of the Month for March.

After passage of the Horizontal Well Act of 2011, Cooper was hired to assist with the review of Horizontal 6A permit application packages.

She was very quick to grasp the permitting concepts, as well as the rule and code interpretations.

She has also become the lead on the E-permitting design for H6A applications and an integral part of the new database design conversion.



May Employee of the Month

Niki Davis, who works for the agency’s Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) program, was named May Employee of the Month.

Davis is described as a very dependable worker, provides quality work, and maintains a well-balanced use of her time.

She voluntarily takes on additional tasks and is continually striving to make all projects more efficient. While REAP has been experiencing some staffing issues, she has taken on additional tasks to make sure the program continues to operate smoothly.

CWSRF hits milestone

The DEP Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) reached a milestone in early May, granting over \$1 billion toward community wastewater treatment throughout the state.

The DEP CWSRF, since its inception, has given 320 low-interest loans to communities in need of service.

The most recent loan was issued to the town of Elizabeth, in Wirt County.

TRIP

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meals a day, and we always had rice or bean dishes. Over our time there, I lost seven pounds and Rachel lost 13. While taking a break from a long day at the clinic, I remember grabbing a mango, a fruit that grows quite plentifully, and it was so fresh and juicy that I had the juice dripping down my chin. Mangos in America don’t even compare.”

Mizak has a population of about 400 residents. Of these citizens, only one that Polen met had “brand-new” clothes or shoes. To them, “new” was something second-hand.

“Rachel and I agreed that we would leave our clothes and shoes, and only leave with the clothes on our backs,” Polen said. “Most of our clothes we left at the orphanage in the capital city. However, leaving a pair of pants for someone my size didn’t make much sense. I asked the pastor in the mountain mission if someone there could use them. Within 20 minutes, I had a gentleman thanking me profusely (I had no idea what he was saying). He was already wearing them.”

Polen even gave the shirt off his back to a local.

“I was walking to the mission on a trail and this wonderful little man who I had met the prior day was standing and smiling at me. We couldn’t take many clothes and I had on my last clean shirt (a DEP shirt),” Polen said. “I gestured to the shirt I was wearing, and asked him if he liked it. He nodded his head and smiled, so I took it off and gave it to him. I walked back, put on another shirt, and walked back that same trail. When I came back by 10 minutes later, he was wearing it ... and happy.”

Downtown in Port-au-Prince the world was completely different than in the mountains. Mountains of trash were being burned beside the Caribbean Sea, streams were covered and people struggled in life.

Polen noted that “it is the only place that I have ever been in the world that has UN peacekeepers in the streets — the white tanks, blue helmets, the whole bit.”

Polen said probably the most moving part of a moving and enlightening trip was the orphanage for the physically and mentally impaired children. The children are protected behind 10-foot walls topped with razor wire. If there is a problem, a hospital is really not an option. Yet every morning the children join together to pray, sing, and some of them even dance.

For his hopeful return trip to Haiti in January, Polen will be collecting supplies and money for the people of Haiti.



U.N. peacekeepers are a familiar site in Haiti.



Outdoor Classroom

Dennis Stottlemyer, from the Office of Environmental Advocate, was a presenter during an outdoor classroom, sponsored by Montrose Elementary School.

The event took place at Camp Virgil Tate in Kanawha County. Close to 60 students from Montrose learned about the environment in a fun and activity-filled setting. They were introduced to topographical maps, went on a nature hike, participated in water studies at the pond, in addition to kayaking on the water; and tested their skills in archery, among other things.

The outdoor classroom included an overnight stay at the camp.

WINNERS

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Volunteers of the Year
— Col. Rowan Post 2345 VFW and Auxiliary (Tunnelton).

Outstanding Litter Control Officer — Jimmy Stone-Raleigh County SWA (Beckley); James Miller-Wyoming County SWA (Pineville).

Environmental Stewardship — Friends of the Hughes River Watershed Association (Harrisville); Braxton County Solid Waste Authority-Town of Sutton (Sutton); Raleigh County SWA-Recycling and Education Center (Beckley); Wyoming County Solid Waste Authority (Pineville).

Cabinet Secretary Award – Morris Creek Watershed Association (Montgomery).

To read more about this year's Environmental Excellence Award winners click [here](#).

Agency transactions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ **Richard Dunlap**
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands
- ▶ **Amy Higgs**
Division of Water and Waste Management
- ▶ **Jessica Perkins**
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands

Internal Transfers

- ▶ **Jeremy Bandy**
Division of Water and Waste Management
- ▶ **Pamela Corley**
Division of Mining and Reclamation
- ▶ **Jason Harmon**
Office of Oil and Gas
- ▶ **Penny Harris**
Division of Water and Waste Management
- ▶ **Mark Kesner**
Division of Water and Waste Management

CAMP

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reminded about making posters with her campmates, writing essays on the environment, and participating in recycling projects.

Snodgrass is also the Coordinator of Archery in public schools, as well as the coordinator for the hunting and fishing days.

She said, “I received all the experience from the program and the 4-H Club.”

She also said many people she

established connections with at the camp eventually became her future co-workers.

In 2001, she was awarded the Youth Environmental Female of the Year Award, as well as many awards for essay and poster contests.

Though her child isn't old enough to attend the camp, she has encouraged other family members to pursue the great opportunity.

Her nephew was recently given an award for an essay submission, and her mother's club received an honor at the last

Youth Environmental Day.

“I think it's an excellent program,” she said. “I encourage people to get involved. It was a highlight to my youth.

“A lot of hard work and dedication goes into the program and early involvement is very important.”

This year's camp, the 34th annual, is scheduled for June 16-20.

For further information about the camp, please contact Diana Haid, the camp director, at (304)-926-0499 ext. 1114, or by email at diana.k.haid@wv.gov.