



Earth Day

Kirby, the talking trash container, was among the more popular attractions at the Department of Environmental Protection’s 2010 Earth Day celebration at the Clay Center in downtown Charleston.

Close to 350 kids from area schools were treated to perfect weather for the event, which was staged outside the Clay Center on April 22.

“This has been a great location,” said REAP’s Travis Cooper, who coordinated the day’s events. “I’ve heard nothing but positive feedback from the teachers and the exhibitors.”

■ [More Earth Day photos on Page 6](#) ■

Office of Oil and Gas begins review

By Tom Aluise

The Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Oil and Gas has embarked on an unprecedented program review in an effort to meet new challenges in an evolving industry.

“To my knowledge, we’ve never taken an entire regulatory program and laid it out on the table like this,” said DEP Cabinet Sec-



Martin

retary Randy Huffman, who called on Deputy Cabinet Secretary Lisa McClung, Associate General Counsel Kristin Boggs and OOG Chief James Martin to lead the review. “This is going to be huge.”

Although several factors con-

tributed to the DEP’s decision to take a comprehensive look at its OOG, the main impetus was the Marcellus Shale and issues surrounding natural gas extraction from the rock formation. The Marcellus Shale stretches beneath much of West Virginia and potentially has the largest gas reserves in the United States.

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About your slow computer . . .

Jerry Forren is the DEP's Chief Information Officer, in charge of the day-to-day technology operations for the



Forren

agency. Forren, a Beckley native, has been with the DEP since 2002. He is married with two children, Lori (30) and Heather (25). He also has two grandchildren, Ethan (3) and Addison (2).

1. In what ways do you feel your job is rewarding?

This job is rewarding in many ways, but the biggest reward is using technology to help someone simplify their job. If I (ITO) can take a process and automate it or make it easier for the end user, then I have done my job.

2. What's the most difficult aspect of overseeing a large state agency's technology operations?

This job has changed a lot since the state consolidated all infrastructure functions at OOT. Since that time, the most difficult aspect has been walking the fine line between looking out for DEP's best interest, while also trying to fully cooperate with OOT. It is also frustrating to have a



With Jerry Forren

problem, such as a telephone system outage, and not being able to jump right in and get it resolved. Waiting for OOT techs to resolve the problem and then get back to me on what the resolution was, takes a while.

3. How many desktop and laptop computers does the DEP have?

We have 1,135 computers, of which roughly 40 percent are laptops.

4. Computer technology is always evolving. What are some of the major changes you've had to deal with over the past five years?

The biggest changes over the last several years have been in storage, connectivity and cell phone technology. Storage is very cheap now. You can purchase a 1 terabyte drive for home use for just under \$100! Most people will find that is enough storage to last for years. Broad band connectivity to homes and even higher speed connections for

businesses has transformed the way we do most everything. We now have the speed to download movies from Netflix and watch them on our home computer! Cell phone technology has probably changed the most. When cell phones went from analog to digital a few years ago, it opened up a new world of possibilities. You can basically do everything on your cell phone that you can do on your computer.

5. What's the No. 1 complaint DEP employees have about our computer system?

Hands down, speed issues. Even though we have all of the high speed lines in place, sometimes we are still at the mercy of the databases. If they are running slow, for any reason, it takes a toll on the users trying to get their work completed.

6. Have you ever had the urge to throw your computer out the window?

No, but I have wanted to throw a few people out the window!

7. How much easier would your job be if all you had to worry about were electric typewriters?

It would be harder because I would be bored to tears!

8. What was your first job out of college?

I let Uncle Sam pay for my education. My father passed away shortly after my 18th birthday, so continuing to go to college, at that time, was not an option. I joined the United States Air Force and completed my education that way. My first job after the Air Force was working for Ford Aerospace as a civilian in automated intelligence for the Air Force Space Command.

9. You've done a lot of weight lifting over the years and you look like you're still in good shape. Are you the strongest guy at DEP?

I doubt I am the strongest guy at DEP, but I could probably give the strongest guy a run for his money.

10. Can you provide an interesting detail or two about yourself that co-workers might not know?

A few things my co-workers might not know. . . I am a three-time national champion in power lifting with two overall championships and one individual event championship. I have held two American records and one world record.

I met my wife when I was 15 and we have been together since that time. I am a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Dunbar.

REAP in front of unprecedented cleanup

By Tom Aluise

Visitors this spring and summer to Beech Fork State Park in Wayne County likely will notice a difference as they make their way into the park.

Several major roadways leading into Beech Fork, as well as area streams, will benefit from a major cleanup that began in early April, will pick up considerable steam on May 5 and continue into the future.

"There is a litter and trash issue along the roads used to access the park," said Greg Rote,

"This is the first time we've gotten this many different people to come to the table for one event."



— Greg Rote

program manager for the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP).

REAP is spearheading the Beech Fork cleanup and bringing

together an unusually wide variety of organizations to help, including DEP Environmental Enforcement, Beech Fork personnel, the Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement, Western Regional Jail Day Report Center, Lincoln County Commission Day Report Litter Crew, and the Wayne County Solid Waste Authority.

"This is the first time we've gotten this many different people to come to the table for one event," Rote said.

See FRONT, Page 4



Savanna Monk, left, gets an autograph from 2006 World's Strongest Man and Charleston resident Phil Pfister during "Take our Daughters and Sons to Work" day at the DEP.

Workout room gets more space

By Colleen O'Neill

The exercise room on the first floor at DEP headquarters just got a little bigger.

Workers removed part of a wall on the south end of the room to access extra space that had been used by the agency's janitorial staff.

A weight machine has already been moved from the original exercise room into the new area and more equipment will follow, said Teresa Weaver, Wellness coordinator for the agency.

"We want the employees, as many employees who want to, to be able to use the exercise room," Weaver said. "They simply had very little room to work out and no room to warm-up or do other exercises, such as using the exercise balls, jumping rope, or stretching."

Pearl Gate Construction, an outside contractor, was used to complete the renovations.

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Kids zone

DEP employees welcome youngsters into workplace

By Colleen O'Neill

On April 22, small voices could be heard in the back hallways of the Department of Environmental Protection's Charleston building. That Thursday was "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work" day and more than 30 employees took part by bringing their children to the office.

DEP planned a day of games and presentations for the 35 children who participated.

"We had almost twice as many kids this year as we did last year," said the DEP's Kenna DeRaimo, coordinator of the agency's participation in the day.

A highlight of the day for many



Top, Division of Air Quality employee Mark Drake talks to the kids about air pollution. Bottom, Jesse Hanshaw, from DAQ, provides some assistance with a GPS unit during a scavenger hunt through the DEP parking lot. The hunt ended in the DEP rain garden.

of the kids was meeting Charleston native Phil Pfister, the 2006 World's Strongest Man.

After Randy Huffman, cabinet secretary of the DEP, gave his opening remarks and asked the children about being environ-

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indepth

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Randy Huffman
Cabinet Secretary

Kathy Cosco
Communications
Director

Tom Aluise
Editor

Public Information Office
601 57th St. S.E.
Charleston, WV 25304

Email:

Kathy.Cosco@wv.gov;
or
Thomas.J.Aluise@wv.gov

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The annual Youth Trout Fishing Day on Buffalo Creek attracted close to 300 people in April. Free fishing gear, tackle and refreshments were distributed to area kids.

DEP helps Buffalo Creek ‘regain its fins’

By Bob Fala

Logan County’s famous Buffalo Creek is one of the Mountain State’s most historic, southern coalfields waterways. In recent years, a new chapter in its long and tragic history has been written. That history book’s cover might very well feature a fanciful



Bob Fala is a wildlife biologist with the DEP. This story first appeared in “Wonderful West Virginia” magazine.

and leaping rainbow trout. For Buffalo Creek has “regained its fins,” so to speak. Today the creek boasts not only ample trout fishing but a local organization dedicated to its preservation. Many will recall the coal slurry dam disaster on Buffalo Creek in February 1972. One of the worst disasters in West Virginia history, it

took 125 lives and left thousands injured and homeless.

Local resident Perry Harvey distinctly remembers fishing for golden trout near his home along the creek the day before the 1972 dam failure. Harvey’s residence was spared, but more than 500 others were destroyed.

Though now retired, Harvey is nonetheless working hard with the local Buffalo Creek Watershed Association, a consortium of individuals and organizations, including the state Department of Environmental Protection,



Top, Benny Campbell, DMR assistant director, Logan office, addresses the Youth Trout Fishing Day crowd. He’s joined by Perry Harvey from the Buffalo Creek Watershed Association. Bottom, a proud angler displays her catch.

dedicated to restoring and preserving Buffalo Creek and the recreational opportunities there. Joining Harvey are Johnny Doss and Eddie Adkins, who are cut from the same fishing mold as he is. Plenty of others have also joined the association and contributed to the effort.

The Buffalo Creek Watershed Association, with a colorful rain-

FRONT

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Beech Fork attracts close to 400,000 visitors each year.

And, while the park itself is kept clean, park officials don’t have the resources to handle significant litter and trash problems in the areas surrounding Beech Fork.

“You don’t want 400,000 people driving by each year looking at trash on their way into the park,” Rote said.

On April 5, law enforcement officers from the Division of Natural Resources and DEP Environmental Enforcement officers began issuing notices of violation to Beech Fork State Park area landowners with trash on their property.

The landowners had until April 30 to dispose of their trash.

As of April 15, nearly eight tons of trash had been collected.

The cleanup’s main push, however, will be on May 5.

On that day, REAP will begin collecting old tires littering the area; REAP contractors will start cleaning up area streams and dumps along Beech Fork access roads; and litter crews from Wayne, Cabell and Lincoln counties will work their way away from the park picking up trash and other debris on access roads.

“This is not just a one-day deal,” Rote said. “It’s going to continue until we’re done. And litter crews will continue to clean these roads as needed.”

Roadways on the cleanup list include Camp Branch, Booten Creek, Hughes Branch, Racoon Creek and Beech Fork Creek roads.

New additions

Recent DEP hires:

- Michael Dillon II, Division of Water and Waste Management, April 19
- Phillip Jones III, Public Information Office, April 16

See BUFFALO, Page 5



Garden party

A team from DWWM took time in April to clean up the rain garden on the DEP headquarters' parking lot. In the foreground are Stephanie Ferrell (left) and Teresa Koon. In the background are Sherry Wilkins, Chris Gatens and Rose Long.

Credit Union offering low-interest loans

The West Virginia State Credit Union is accepting news members.

To join, state workers can go to www.wvpecu.org and click on "How to join the SCU."

The SCU offers loans, credit cards, online banking and phone service, check cards, payroll deduction, direct deposit and much more.

Currently, the SCU is offering auto loans as low as 3 percent for three years and 2 percent for two years. Special auto loan rates are also available for a limited time.

The SCU also is offering five-year home equity loans for as low as 4 percent.

For more information, go to www.wvpecu.org and view the SCU spring 2010 newsletter. Click on newsletter under the E-services heading.

Also, more information can be obtained by calling 304-558-0566 or emailing: contact@scuwv.com.

BUFFALO

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bow trout as its logo, has also garnered the strong support of local businesses and several state and local government agencies, including the DEP, the Division of Natural Resources, the Town of Man, and the Logan County Commission.

At its regular meetings, the group features guest speakers, who provide additional insight and recommendations for improving the waterway. It also helps that WVDNR conservation officer Larry Harvey (no relation to Perry), a Buffalo Creek native, is stationed at his hometown hollow. With his assistance, frequent cleanup projects and other activities to promote a litter-free waterway have come to the forefront.

In February 2006, amid great fanfare, Buffalo Creek was returned to the official WVDNR spring time put-and-take trout stocking list after a 34-year hiatus.

This designation did not involve merely throwing fish into the creek. It took years of hard work to regain stock list status. Over the years, many local,

state, and federal initiatives contributed to the improvement in water quality at Buffalo Creek. Sanitary sewer and road improvements and several major Abandoned Mine Lands gob pile reclamation projects, which all contribute toward better water quality, also occurred.

Prior to the creek's return to the trout stock list, WVDNR and the DEP worked together on experimental fingerling trout stockings. Follow-up creek surveys and angler feedback revealed that some of the trout hung in there. This information was helpful and bode well for the official, catchable-size trout stockings that came later. The surveys also revealed a number of sassy, good-sized smallmouth and rock bass in the creek.

Citizens, businesses, and the Logan County Commission have also teamed up with the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation time and again over the years. Together, they conducted private, catchable-size trout stockings and youth fishing days in the spring.

The annual Youth (Spring Break) Trout Fishing Day is the big-

gest event of the year for the watershed association. Fishing gear, tackle, and refreshments are distributed free of charge to youngsters for this sometimes chilly and always memorable outing.

This year, close to 300 people attended the April 5 fishing day at McCoy Memorial Park at La-trobe.

Despite the great progress being made on Buffalo Creek, watershed association member Eddie Adkins is still frustrated by some folks who persist in littering. But, he noted with a broad grin, one recent litterbug accidentally tossed out a \$50 bill.

Talk about poetic justice. Perhaps this is just one of the many signs of the watershed group's growing good fortune.

The group's future likely holds more natural stream restoration work, as well as fish structure and habitat improvement projects. A multitude of small improvements continue to add up and make a distinct difference.

Along the way, those who prize Buffalo Creek must remain vigilant. Small and simple actions include basic litter control and the peer pressure to prevent it.

In addition, small and large streamside landowners can plant native trees and shrubs such as willow, alder, sycamore, box elder, red oak, and river birch. Tree and shrub growth will increase the in-stream food chain base and provide shade and streamside stability via root anchoring.

This is a time to celebrate every person's contribution to the successes at Buffalo Creek, from those who picked up litter, to those who threw a dollar in a jar to buy gear for the youth fishing day, to those who enacted or enforced laws to protect the creek.

But we can't rest on our "trout laurels." There's still plenty of work to be done at Buffalo Creek and at a lot of other streams in the state.

This spring, if you call the WVDNR Trout Hotline (304-558-3399) to check on the daily stockings, you'll hear the sweet tune "Buffalo Creek of Guyandotte River." Celebrate with the folks of Buffalo Creek and GO FISH!

You might even catch a leaping, rod-bending rainbow trout, just like the one in the Buffalo Creek Watershed Association logo.

Earth Day at the Clay Center

Gov. Joe Manchin urged kids at the DEP's Earth Day Celebration to spread the word to their friends about protecting the environment and keeping West Virginia clean.

"All of us can do more," the governor said.

"If you don't remember anything else today, do remember this: every day is Earth Day," he said. "That means we're responsible every day to do the right things like clean up litter and recycle."

He also told the young crowd to spend more time in the outdoors.

"Every day you need to spend some time outside enjoying the beauty of the environment. Make it a point to do something outside every day."



The Division of Water and Waste Management's Renee Clevenger talks frogs and toads with an Earth Day celebration participant at the Clay Center.



West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin tells the kids at the Clay Center he hopes Earth Day is still going strong hundreds of years from now.



From left, a curious Earth Day participant delights in holding a slithery creature; Dustin Johnson and Laura Simpkins, from the Division of Water and Waste Management's non-point source program, engage kids in some hands-on learning; and Jeanne Chandler and Stephanie Hammonds, from the Division of Air Quality, enjoy sharing some energy-saving tips with the kids.

Program doubles volunteers

By Tom Aluise

Bolstered by more school participation and one county's enhanced efforts to tidy up, the 2010 Make It Shine statewide cleanup attracted double the volunteers compared to last year.



Sponsored by the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) and the state Department of Highways, this

year's Make It Shine campaign drew on the efforts of close to 5,000 volunteers statewide, said Travis Cooper, Make it Shine coordinator.

Last year, about 2,500 people volunteered.

"A lot of schools participated this year and that might have had something to do with the numbers being higher," Cooper said.

Also, approximately 800 people, representing 15 different volunteer groups, participated in a massive, one-day, county-wide cleanup in Monroe County.

All 55 West Virginia counties had at least one cleanup during the two-week Make It Shine program, which began on April 5. Cooper said close to 125 projects were completed statewide. Cleanups occurred on public lands such as school grounds, city parks, state parks, cemeteries, lakes, rivers and streams.

In Kanawha County, Andrew Jackson Middle School participated in Make It Shine efforts for the fifth year. AJ students and teachers fanned out on school property to pick up litter and other debris.

"I think this helps them appreciate the environment," AJ Principal Lisa Woo said. "And they can take a little ownership in what they've done. It's important to teach children that this isn't just a public facility, it's their school, too. The care of this facility and the environment is not just for adults."

The City of Logan staged a weeklong cleanup that focused not only on picking up litter, but also on making the city look more appealing. Now, Logan officials want to do two cleanups (spring and fall) annually. "We did a ton of litter pickup and painted everything in the city — all the poles and curbs," said Amber Miller-Viars, Logan city clerk.



Students and teachers from Andrew Jackson Middle School in Kanawha County clean up their school grounds during a Make It Shine cleanup project in April.



Left, two Andrew Jackson Middle school students carry bags of trash and debris off school grounds. Right, Sam Stalnak, a REAP project manager, presents a certificate to Logan city officials recognizing their Make It Shine cleanup efforts.

"It's important to teach children that this isn't just a public facility, it's their school, too. The care of this facility and the environment is not just for adults."

— Lisa Woo
principal, Andrew Jackson Middle School, Kanawha County

"We replaced dilapidated signs and removed a lot of debris to allow for expanded green space throughout the city. We did a lot."

The Department of Highways even painted the rusted-out hospital bridge in Logan.

"It's been an eyesore for a very long time," Miller-Viars said. "It was completely brown from rust. Now, it's silver. That's the No. 1 compliment we've received. That's what you see when you come into the city."

REAP Chief Danny Haught said efforts like those of Monroe County, the City of Logan and AJ Middle School are what fuels



From left, REAP Chief Danny Haught, spends time with his dad, Jim, and U.S. Congressman Nick Rahall during a cleanup in Raleigh County.

REAP's volunteer-driven programs.

"Without our volunteers and their passion for making West Virginia the cleanest and most beautiful state in the country, REAP would not succeed," Haught said.

"I am especially pleased to learn that a good number of schools jumped on board with our Make It Shine cleanup efforts this year," Haught added.

"The more young people we get involved now, the more environmentally conscious adults we'll have down the road."



Top, Department of Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman speaks to visiting kids during “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work” day. Bottom, DEP employees David Kersey and Melinda Campbell mingle with the group.

KIDS

Continued from Page 3

mentally responsible, one little girl raised her hand and asked if they were really going to meet the world’s strongest man.

Steve Graley, who works in maintenance at DEP headquarters, brought his three grandchildren to celebrate the day.

Jordan, Austin and Sydney Graley, all siblings and each unique in character, all looked forward to meeting Pfister.

Jacob Lewis and Benjamin Hass, grandsons of Judy Smith of Human Resources, both agreed that meeting the world’s strongest man was their favorite part of the day.

Ditto, said Caleb Taylor.

“My favorite part was meeting Phil Pfister,” said Taylor, son of Carrie Taylor, who works in the Division of Water and Waste Management.

“Getting his autograph” was the day’s high point for Paige Scruggs, daughter of Chuck Scruggs of the Division of Mining and Reclamation. She came with her aunt, Sheri Richardson of Human Resources.

There were a few children who had different highlights, including Tiffany and Tabitha Kersey,

Take Your Daughters, Sons to Work Day participants

Child’s name	Age	Parent/Sponsor
Taylor Baldwin	11	Ann Baldwin
Molly Campbell	11	Melinda Campbell
Derek Franks	9	Ray Franks
Behren Franks	9	Ray Franks
Jacob Franks	9	Ray Franks
Brent Gist	8	Stephanie Gist
Jordan Graley	13	Steve Graley
Austin Graley	10	Steve Graley
Sydney Graley	10	Steve Graley
Amber Grimm	9	Patrick Grimm
Alexander Halstead	9	Amy Halstead
Bayli Hanshaw	9	Jesse Hanshaw
Brady Hanshaw	9	Jesse Hanshaw
Hunter Hansroth	12	Ed Hamrick
Benjamin Hass	8	Judy Smith
Julia Hunter	10	Russ Hunter
Paige Jones	10	Cynthia Monk
Tabitha Kersey	13	David Kersey
Tiffany Kersey	9	David Kersey
Allyson Kincaid	12	Amy Halstead
Jacob Lewis	12	Judy Smith
Alyssa Manning	9	Diane Manning
Ashley McClung	10	Lisa McClung
Ethan Miller	12	Matt Miller
Delaney Moneypenny	8	John Moneypenny
Sidney Moneypenny	10	John Moneypenny
Savanna Monk	9	Cynthia Monk
Amber Null	11	Greg Null
Jack Piekarski	10	Lana Piekarski
Rachel Polen	13	Terry Polen
Ian Rose	10	Susan Rose
Paige Scruggs	10	Sheri Richardson
Dylan Spradling	13	Misty Nichols
Caleb Taylor	9	Carrie Taylor
Katie Taylor	13	Randy Taylor

daughters of David Kersey of Human Resources.

“My favorite part of the day was playing bingo,” Tiffany said. “It was fun.”

“I enjoyed making new friends,” Tabitha said.

The day’s two presentations dealt with the environment.

The Division of Air Quality’s Joel Maddy and Mark Drake taught about two common and rather troublesome air pollutants, PM2 and ozone.

In the afternoon, the DMR’s Nick Schaer showed the kids how to use a Global Positioning System unit and had the children embark on a scavenger hunt that led them through the parking lot.

They ended at the rain garden, where they received a T-shirt and a lesson about the rain garden.

“The kids seemed to enjoy themselves, and that’s what matters,” DeRaimo said. “If they learned a little about the environment, that’s a bonus.

“Each year we learn a little more, and it gets better,” DeRaimo said.

Preparations underway for Corporate Cup event

By Colleen O’Neill

For employees looking for a challenge, or even just some fun and physical activity, the annual Corporate Cup competition fits the bill.

The Corporate Cup offers many



field day, complete with running, shot put, and tug-of-war. For

types of activities, from playing softball to swimming, to shooting pool, or shooting hoops.

There’s a track and

those non-athletic, there’s a health walk and spirit competition. DEP has won first place in Division III — the division for companies with more than 300 employees — eight straight years.

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Employees of the Month



Three DEP workers out of the Charleston headquarters and one out of the Philippi office were honored in April as agency Employees of the Month for January, February, March and April. Pictured above with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman (clockwise from left) are Suzi Adkins (January); Tom Aluise (February); Carla Poling (March); and Dave Montali (April).

Adkins, secretary in the DWWM Charleston office, was instrumental in the agency's ability to successfully manage extra funds in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund; **Aluise**, PIO Charleston office, produces the weekly InDEPth newsletter; **Poling**, secretary in the DLR Philippi office, is consistently the first to volunteer her services or input when a new task or responsibility arises; and **Montali**, technical analyst in the DWWM Charleston office, has spent the past year working with the Chesapeake Bay Program on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, a challenging undertaking with political and economic nuances.

Reward and Recognition



Receiving honors in April from the DEP's Reward and Recognition program were Andy Grimm (pictured left with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman) and Janice Palmer.

Grimm, an inspector in the DAQ Charleston office, was instrumental in determining a facility fraudulently misrepresented its potential and actual Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP) emission to the DAQ's permitting group. **Palmer**, a secretary in the OEE Fairmont office, dedicated time to getting a DEP Web-based spill system implemented and coordinated numerous meetings with IT and DEP management staff to work out details developing the system.

YEP set to host 47th annual Youth Day

Close to 1,000 young people from across West Virginia are expected to attend the DEP's 47th annual Youth Environmental Day.

This year's event is set for Saturday, May 15, at North Bend State Park in Cairo.



On Friday evening, May 14, participants camping overnight will have a short program followed by a movie at 8 p.m. at North Bend's Shelter No. 3.

The YED awards ceremony is set for May 15, also at Shelter No. 3 and will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a parade of youth groups.

Awards totaling more than \$11,000 will be presented on Saturday. Youth group members will receive these awards for their participation in community environmental projects that include litter cleanups, recycling drives, school beautification projects, tree planting, backyard composting, wildlife management, watershed protection and much more.

"The work these young people do is inspiring," DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman said.

"They are making contributions toward a better environment for all West Virginians through projects that enhance their communities."

Many exhibits also will be on display.

There will be a fishing derby, volleyball game, recycling crafts and a hike on the rail trail following the awards presentation at 3 p.m. A dance is scheduled at Shelter 3 Saturday night at 8.

For more information about Youth Environmental Day, please call Diana Haid at 304-926-0499, Ext. 1114 or e-mail diana.k.haid@wv.gov.

What's next

- May 5-6 — Corporate Cup Committee Recycle Sale, DEP Headquarters, Coopers Rock, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (call Dan Roberts).
- May 10 — Start date for Do It Yourself Fitness program (8-week program).
- May 14-16 — Youth Environmental Day, North Bend State Park. (call Diana Haid).
- May 20 — CPR/AED training, 8 a.m.-noon, DEP Headquarters. (call Tammy Canterbury).
- May 26 — Blood drive.
- June — Professional Wellness month; Walking program.
- June 12 — DEP Community Yard Sale, to benefit State Employee's Combined Campaign, DEP headquarters parking lot. (call Melinda Campbell).
- June 14-18 — State Conservation Camp, Cowen.
- June 17 — CPR/AED training, 8 a.m.-noon, DEP Headquarters; First Aid training, 1-4:30 p.m., DEP Headquarters.
- June 21-25 — Junior Conservation Camp, Cedar Lakes.
- 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.
- Sept. 22 — DEP Employee Appreciation Event picnic, Little Creek Park. (call Kenna De-Raimo).



Planting season

DEP staffers have fanned out this spring to attend tree planting events on reclaimed surface mines throughout the state.

Top, high school students plant on Wyoming County property owned by Cliffs Natural Resources. The Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable sponsored the event.

Right, DEP inspector Reuben Gillispie gives students from Sharon Dawes Elementary a brief geology lesson before a tree planting event at Alex Energy's Kayford Mountain site.

Bottom, trees are planted on a former Patriot Coal surface mine in Boone County. The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team led the effort.



CUP

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“We have a great group of committee members who work on all of the fundraising and recruiting and team captains who take care of each individual event,” said Dan Roberts, who captains the DEP’s Corporate Cup team.

This year’s Cup events are scheduled July 10-24.

“We also have a number of employees who participate every year and we have good participation from summer interns, as well,” Roberts said.

“Please remember, this is not the Olympics; the top eight places are not separated by 0.01 seconds,” Roberts said. “Participation in every event is the key. The top eight places in each event receive points. In some of the running events, there are less than eight companies who fill their spots, so we get points for just participating.”

DEP has statewide participation and long drives are not a deterrent.

“Dan Lehmann works in Philippi and drives his motorcycle to Charleston to run the 35-and-over 5,000 meter race every year,” Roberts said.



DEP employees Mike Egnor, left, and Mike Arcuri take a break during last year’s Corporate Cup track and field events at Laidley Field. Also pictured is Egnor’s wife, Mendy Egnor.

“Christy Puckett works in Welch and drives to Charleston on a Saturday and Sunday to play in the softball tournament. We have people participating who work in Logan, Oak Hill, Teays Valley, and the Guthrie Lab. I encourage everyone who has an interest to contact the event captain.”

Like most teams, there is a limit on the number of members. No Corporate Cup team can have more than 50 members.

“Most people participate in more than one event,” Roberts said. “Last year, John Damon was our Iron Man. He played softball, volleyball, did the 5,000-meter team walk, tug-o-war and punt, pass and kick.

“Our Iron Woman was Margie Skeens. She participated in softball, darts, bowling, billiards, hoop shoot, tug-o-war, and punt, pass and kick.

“There was an honorable mention for Iron Woman. Amy Halstead did five events in one day: 35-and-over 100-meter dash, obstacle course, 35-and-over 400-meter relay, open 800-meter relay, and tug-o-war.”

Last year, there were 12 teams in Division III, including CAMC with around 8,000 employees. DEP has approximately 600 employees.

Although there’s a variety of events, some still are difficult to fill.

“Softball is a hard event to fill because it requires a lot of men and women and is a tough

double-elimination tournament that runs on Saturday and Sunday,” Roberts said.

“Volleyball is a one-half day event on a Saturday and is sometimes hard to fill.

“Some of the track and field running events are hard to fill. We need to find a female to throw horseshoes to replace Dianna Wallace, who left DEP last year. Paul Frantz and Wallace have been the reigning champs for the last couple of years.”

Sporting events, or any event that’s competitive, can be a good time, as long as you have the right goals and mindset.

“DEP’s first and main goal is to have a good time,” Roberts said. “Our other goals are to show good sportsmanship, to participate in every event, try to score points in every event, and to have more fun.

“DEP team members always give their best in the events, but also show class and sportsmanship in doing so. The reasons for our success are team work, effort and heart.”

In the next couple of weeks, Roberts will send out an e-mail with a listing of events and the team captain for each event, complete with phone extension.



Noon stroll

The DEP’s Wellness Committee hosted a National Walk at Lunch Day event on April 28 at the agency’s headquarters.

The weather was nearly perfect for a turnout of 50 walkers, most of whom covered a mile through Kanawha City.

At left (from left) Kim Akers, April O’Dell, Debbie Pickens and David Kersey sign in before hitting the roads.

Several employees won prizes in post-walk drawings.



Top, extra space was gained in the DEP fitness room by moving the weight machine (bottom) to an adjacent area that was accessed by knocking out part of the fitness room's south wall. The extra space will leave room for stretching, exercising, etc.

SPACE

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The construction began near the end of March and took approximately two weeks to complete. The renovations cost \$10,300 and were paid for out of the Administration Services budget.

Weaver said a rowing machine and some free weights will be moved into the new space. It will also have a pull-up bar.

"The treadmills, lifecycles, and ellipticals will remain in the main room and the space gained from the renovations will be used for various cardio/strength exercises, stretching, and warm-up, as well as allow some space for folks to use exercise DVDs," Weaver said.

DEP sponsoring workshops on sustainability, EMS

Businesses and other organizations in West Virginia can learn more about "Going Green," sustainability and other ways to improve their environmental performance during two identical, two-day Sustainability 101 and Environmental Management System workshops at the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Charleston headquarters.

The workshops, scheduled June 7-8 and June 9-10, are sponsored by the DEP, the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and Bridgemont Community and Technical College.

Registration is free and the deadline is Friday, May 28. To register, go to: <http://apps.dep.wv.gov/pio/registration/registration.cfm>.

CHANGES

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Roughly 500 wells have been drilled into the Marcellus Shale in West Virginia over the past three years (the OOG has been tracking target formations since 2008) and that number is expected to grow as long as there's a strong demand for natural gas.

What concerns regulators are the high-yield drilling techniques being used to extract Marcellus gas. Companies are combining horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing practices to maximize their operations.

"Horizontal drilling isn't new, nor is hydraulic fracturing," said the OOG's Martin. "It's the combination of those two techniques which is new, particularly the way it's being done with large volumes of water."

In hydraulic fracturing, drillers pump millions of gallons of water under high pressure into a shale formation to produce fractures, or cracks in the rock. The cracks allow the gas to flow out of the shale into the well in economic quantities.

The OOG is especially concerned with where drillers are getting their water and how much they're taking; the disposal of the frac fluids after they're pumped out of wells; and drill site construction.

"We've gotten into a type of operation that is a good bit different from the traditional-type activities we've encountered and is different from what many of the current regulations are set up to deal with," Martin said of Marcellus drilling. "The oil and gas industry has evolved since many of the regulations and policies were developed."

That's why the ongoing review is so important. It will enable the OOG to develop new guidelines if necessary to better regulate the industry, Martin said.

In addition to the regulatory framework of the OOG, the review process also will focus on funding mechanisms, policy issues and staffing levels. The OOG has 32 positions. Twenty-nine are filled.

There are close to 60,000 active oil and gas wells in West Virginia.

"With all the water issues that surround the Marcellus, there is a lot of interest in a lot of circles to have more oversight," Martin said. "And that's going to take more staff."

Martin said his group will work diligently in hopes of having legislation proposed for next year.

It could take several years for changes to be fully implemented depending on rule-making procedures and other legislative actions.

"This is going to be a priority for the next several months," Martin said.

Industry representatives, government officials, surface and mineral owner groups, coal association reps and environmental groups were among those invited to DEP headquarters twice in April to discuss the review and to provide feedback.

"We hope to get together with them as needed," Martin said. "The idea is to meet as often as necessary to allow these various entities to provide input. In the end, this will be our plan. But we want to give people the opportunity to give us their input to what they think that plan should be. We're getting good feedback."