

Oil and Gas inspectors dealing daily with issues pertaining to Marcellus Shale

By Tom Aluise

Not long ago, Bill Hatfield went to the movies.

It wasn't, however, a typical day of popcorn and mindless entertainment for the Office of Oil and Gas inspector.

The documentary "Gasland" was being shown at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. The national award-winning film, written and directed by Josh Fox, is a not-so-complimentary look at the natural gas industry's impact on local communities across the United States.

Included in the film's focus are the Marcellus Shale, the vast rock formation found under much of West Virginia that contains trillions of cubic feet of natural gas, and the hydraulic fracturing methods used in producing Marcellus gas.

Organizers brought the film to Upshur County because the Marcellus boom in West Virginia has, thus far, been centered in the north-central part of the state.

Hatfield, who's been with the Department of Environmental Protection for six years, is the OOG's inspector for Upshur County, a piece of information that was announced at the local showing of "Gasland."



DEP Office of Oil and Gas inspector Bill Hatfield (right) takes time to speak with a rig worker at one of the many Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling sites in Upshur County.



Harris

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BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

This freshwater impoundment at a Chesapeake Energy natural gas drilling site in Upshur County supplies water for hydraulic fracturing operations in several nearby Marcellus Shale wells.



Not surprisingly, Hatfield and other area OOG inspectors began fielding more complaints about gas drilling and water-related issues in the days following the local screening of the documentary.

Several of Hatfield's

phone calls came from people who attended the movie, which, Hatfield believes, includes inaccuracies and misleading information.

He did his best to alle-

viate the concerns of area residents. That part of Hatfield's job has picked up steam over the past two years in

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response to more Marcellus drilling and the accompanying issues with local truck traffic, water withdrawal and disposal, timbering and the general scope of the drilling sites, which are much larger than conventional operations.

A documentary like "Gasland" only fueled the fire.

"We've been on complaints almost every day this week," Bryan Harris, an OOG inspector in Preston, Barbour, Taylor and Tucker counties, said a few days after "Gasland" aired at Wesleyan on Aug. 22. "I've probably fielded five or six complaints since the movie was shown."

"Marcellus is a big word right now. Everyone is scared of it. Whenever they hear it, they jump."

Hatfield, who covers Randolph, Hardy, Grant, Hampshire, Jefferson, Morgan, Berkeley and Mineral counties, in ad-



Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling operations, like the one pictured above in Upshur County, are much larger than the conventional gas well sites most people are used to.

dition to Upshur, said he has approximately 150 Marcellus wells either producing gas or being drilled in his coverage area.

Most of his complaints come from angry landowners who are upset about drilling on or near their property.

Since the movie, however, Hatfield said residents have been voicing concerns about water impoundments that are located at Marcellus drilling sites. A large volume of water is needed in horizontal

drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Millions of gallons of water, mixed with sand and chemicals, are pumped underground at high pressure to crack the shale and allow gas to flow.

"People were calling saying fumes were coming from the impoundments," Hatfield said. "I explained to them that those were fresh water impoundments."

Another ongoing water issue is the operators' practice of using large trucks to pump water from area streams to be

used in the hydraulic fracturing process.

"Folks aren't used to seeing all these trucks," Hatfield said. "I try to explain and it's almost impossible. They see a truck at a river drawing water out and their first instinct is that someone is pumping something into the river."

"Some people, if you promise the sun will come up in the morning, they still won't believe you. We try to tell them but they won't listen."

Harris said gas operators have been responsive to DEP guidance on water withdrawal issues and agency requirements to seek water elsewhere when flows are low.

He also said OOG inspectors understand the concerns and challenges landowners face in the wake of a changing industry. Harris, in turn, has found that most drilling operators are sympathetic to landowners' concerns.

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New DWWM flyer focuses on water quality standards

The Division of Water and Waste Management staff, in cooperation with the Public Information Office, has developed a new flyer highlighting water quality standards.

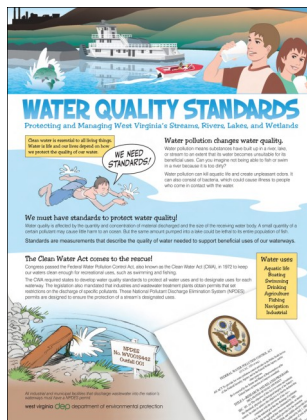
The publication provides information to help the general public better understand the connection between water quality standards, designated uses and the water quality-based approach to pollution control.

The flyer will be used for a variety of DWWM functions, including Project WET and Save Our Streams workshops.

"The flyer will be of use to those who want to know more about watershed assessments and TMDLs," said Rose Long, Project WET coordinator.

"It is basic information made more readable because of the attractive graphics."

Paper copies of the flyer are available in the DEP lobby area or from Judy Lupson.



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InDEPth is published monthly by the Department of Environmental Protection, an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.



Not all of the wildlife was wary of humans in Canada's Algonquin Provincial Park, where the DEP's Keith Carte vacationed earlier this summer. This chipmunk moseyed into Carte's camp and helped himself to some hot chocolate.

Quality time

DEP inspectors head to the great outdoors for high adventure with their sons

Canada tested survival skills

By Colleen O'Neill

A chance to hike, fish and try out survival skills was the result of a trip planned by looking through the pages of a reference book.



Carte

"The trip was my idea," said Keith Carte, a blasting specialist with the Office of Explosives and Blasting. "I was planning on taking Nathan, my 18-year-old son, on a trip to the Gulf Coast but the oil leak put an end to those plans."

So, Carte picked up a road atlas and began turning pages.

"Canada seemed like a good place since it would be cool," he said. "The trip was geared more toward exploring and survival rather than fish-



Keith Carte spent plenty of time in and out of canoes during his trip to Canada's Algonquin Provincial Park.

ing. I wanted to do something different other than going to the beach.

"We drove 800 miles, or 15 hours, each way. The three of us — me, my son, and my brother, Neal — took turns driving.

"We drove to a place called Kiosk. Kiosk is not really a town. It's kind of

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Killer whales and more ...

By Colleen O'Neill

Fishing off the Pacific Coast of Alaska is a great way to make memories.

Mike Kromer, who works for the Office of Explosives and Blasting out of Philippi, did just that by going deep

sea fishing with his 26-year-old son.

"I had gone to Gustavus, Alaska, with my uncle six years ago," Kromer said. "I promised my son, Tommy, that I would take him. It took us six years to coordinate our schedules.

"We flew out of Pittsburgh at 7 a.m. Monday, July 12,



Mike Kromer, left, and son, Tommy, hold up the 200-pound halibut they caught on their trip to Alaska.

and traveled to Cleveland, where we changed planes and flew on to Seattle.

"There, we changed planes again and flew to Juneau and on to Gustavus. We arrived there at 10 p.m. Eastern Time, 6 p.m.

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SKILLS

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a ranger station campground inside Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario. I think there are some cabins there. Kiosk is basically a drop-off point to park your car when you travel by canoe into the park.

“There are places to rent canoes outside and inside the park in the southern part, but Kiosk is kind of a jumping off point.

“The only thing you buy there is a parking permit. You tell the ranger where you think you are going in the park and how many days you will be in the park. You put the parking permit on your windshield and if your car is there longer than the permit allows, they will search for you where you told them you would be camping.”

The three men hiked from lake to lake, using their survival skills as they camped and went fishing.

They started at Kioskokwi Lake, rambled to Little Mink Lake, then Mink Lake, Cauchon Lake, Little Cauchon Lake, and ended up camping at Carl Wilson Lake. From there they hiked to Lismer Lake where there is no campground.

The group spent six July days in the park.

“Bruce Miller and Sandra Russell actually disappeared on Carl Wilson Lake, our destination, in 1972, and have never been seen since,”



Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada, offered plenty of spectacular scenery for Keith Carte. It also featured a wide range of wildlife, from bears and loons (a bird featured on Canada’s one dollar coin) to four species of wolves. Carte’s crew didn’t spot any wolves but they came across some tracks (at right).



Carte said, throwing in a little trivia. “All they found was their canoe.”

All the hard work hiking and canoeing rubbed off on the three men — literally.

“My clothes stank,” Carte said. “We did bathe, but it’s hard to stay fresh when you’re working hard.

“I actually brought clean clothes home. We could have changed more, but we thought the smell might keep the bears away. It seemed to work.

“We did not see any bears. I actually burned a couple of garments.”

While the trio managed to stave off bears, the men weren’t so fortunate

keeping smaller critters at bay.

Carte had a close encounter with a chipmunk.

“I was sitting on a log in camp drinking a cup of hot chocolate and a chipmunk, very nonchalantly, walked over and climbed up on my cup and drank his fill and then scampered off,” Carte said.

He said the group encountered loons as well.

“The loon is not the national bird of Canada,” Carte said, “but is featured on their one dollar coin, known as the ‘Loony.’

“We encountered loons frequently in the higher lakes. Loons are unique birds that carry their

young on their backs while swimming in the water. Just after dark, the loons begin to sing. I’m not sure why they are singing, but they seem to enjoy themselves.”

Carte said the park has four species of wolves but the men did not encounter any.

“We did not see or hear wolves, but we did find tracks,” he said.

Carte said the whole adventure was a life-changing experience.

“I’ll never be the same,” he said. “And sharing this with my son and my brother, I couldn’t ask for more.”



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Alaska time. There were 15 hours total travel time.”

The Kromers fished for halibut and salmon. Halibut are large, flat fish that range between 5 and 700 pounds. Salmon

In addition to spotting whales, Mike Kromer and his son observed this group of sea otters taking a leisurely break on a buoy.

can get as big as 100 pounds.

“Reeling in fish up to 200 pounds from 200 feet of water is difficult,” Kromer said.

Kromer said you rely on strength in your back and legs, more than your arms, in deep sea fishing.

“Freshwater fishing is totally different from deep sea fishing,” he said.

“In this type of deep sea fishing, you use up to six pounds of weight

and fish in really deep water. The 200-pounder we caught was caught in 235 feet of water.”

Days were spent fishing and the evenings and nights were spent on land in a plush cabin.

“We saw moose tracks outside our cabin, but didn’t see the moose,” Kromer said. “We also heard wolves howling one evening.”

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Reward and Recognition

Zahid Chaudhry, central support, and **Gary Guthrie**, AML, both of the Charleston office, were presented with Reward and Recognition honors.

Both Chaudhry (top photo) and Guthrie (above) are pictured with Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman.

► Chaudhry developed web-based GIS applications for the Office of Oil and Gas that have improved office efficiency. He excels at grasping organizational needs and quickly proposing innovative solutions that are user friendly.

► Guthrie took the initiative and was willing to step outside his normal job duties to point out a construction mistake that was being made in front of DEP headquarters. The mistake was corrected in time to save costs and prevent an unsightly sign with block that didn't match from going up.



Employee of the Month

Jeff Parsons, with the Division of Mining and Reclamation out of Charleston, was named the July Employee of the Month. In heading up coal NPDES permitting, Parsons has put in countless hours trying to keep up with unprecedented EPA oversight issues. Parsons' contributions to the agency are invaluable.

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"They try to work with the landowners," Harris said. "The operators are in the public eye so much, they don't want any criticism from landowners. They own a lot of mineral rights and anticipate drilling more wells in the future."

What that future holds is anyone's guess when it comes to Marcellus drilling, both Harris and Hatfield said.

The essence of their jobs, though, won't change.

"We're here to protect the environment and keep the impact of drilling to a minimum," Harris said. "And we try to alleviate issues between landowners and drillers."

"I think when people begin understanding the facts about the Marcellus Shale, the complaints will go down," Hatfield added. "But you're still going to have landowners vs. mineral rights complaints."

Gov. urges state to lead the way in responsible drilling

By Tom Aluise

Gov. Joe Manchin believes West Virginia can lead the nation in responsible natural gas drilling when it comes to the lucrative Marcellus Shale.

"We do have a tremendous opportunity, but also a lot of challenges," Manchin told about 150 people assembled at the Department of Environmental Protection headquarters in August. The group included industry representatives, government officials, surface landowners, citizen representatives, environmentalists and others.

"It's something brand new and we're trying to make sure we do it right," Manchin said. "We should be the leader among states in doing things the right way. This could be a tremendous opportunity for us for many, many years."

The DEP's Office of Oil and Gas is in the midst of a program review which, in part, is taking a look at potential changes the OOG might implement to better handle the Marcellus boom and its accompanying water use, site construction and horizontal drilling issues.

Manchin called the latest meeting to let stakeholders know "we're concerned" and to listen to the concerns, as well, of citizens, drillers, landowners and environmentalists.

"Gas drilling is a good thing, but we want to make sure we do it right," DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman told the gathering. "We want to be a leader in this area and we think we can."

Corky DeMarco, executive director of the West Virginia Oil and Gas Association, said his group is supportive of DEP efforts to explore the best possible ways to regulate an evolving natural gas industry.

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About 100 volunteers are expected for this year's Great Kanawha River Cleanup, which is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Kanawha Cleanup set for Sept. 11

By Colleen O'Neill

It's almost time for the Great Kanawha River Cleanup. Scheduled for 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 11, volunteers gather to render the river unsullied.

Cleanup sites along the river include Gauley Bridge, Magic Island in Charleston and St. Albans.



"Last year, 98 volunteers collected 6.15 tons of debris."

— Travis Cooper

Volunteers are urged to register with the Department of Environmental Protection so enough supplies and T-shirts can be obtained for each location. DEP Make It Shine Coordinator Travis Cooper said the DEP's REAP program (Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan) will supply bags and gloves for volunteers and will arrange for trash to be hauled away.

"I anticipate around 100 volunteers again this year," Cooper said.

"We have some groups that are very dedicated to this cleanup," Cooper added.

"They include Lou Wendell Marine, Andrew Jackson Middle School's Honor Society, Winfield Environmental Club, and the Town of Gauley Bridge."

The annual Kanawha River Cleanup is in its 21st year and Cooper said residents love the opportunity to clean up and beautify West Virginia.

"Last year, 98 volunteers collected 6.15 tons of debris and 70 tires," Cooper said. For more information or to register, contact Cooper at 304-926-0499 ext. 1117, or e-mail, Travis.L.Cooper@wv.gov.

Human Resources corner



Educational Enhancement and Expense Reimbursement Policy

1) What is the purpose of this policy?

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to DEP personnel on the application and restrictions of educational expense reimbursement; specifically on reimbursement for employees taking individual college or university courses offered within the boundaries of the State of West Virginia and, on rare occasions, a subsidized education leave of absence.

2) How is it determined whether or not an individual's request for reimbursement will be approved?

A committee comprised of representatives from the Human Resources Section will recommend approval or rejection to the Cabinet Secretary of the DEP. Upon approval or rejection the applicant will be notified immediately.

3) What educational expenses are generally reimbursed?

Tuition, registration fees, and limited expenses associated with enrollment in workshops, training programs, and other educational programs.

4) Who is eligible for reimbursement?

A permanent, full time employee of the DEP, who has completed six (6) full months of continuous service.

5) What are the boundaries of what can be reimbursed?

Educational reimbursement cannot be used to enable an employee to become qualified for a different position within this or another state agency, or to obtain employment in a field that is not connected to their current classification.

6) When is it permissible to be approved for educational expense reimbursement?

a) When the course of instruction enables an employee to remain current in a specialized field necessary to his/her responsibilities or is directly related to maintaining or improving the employee's performance and/or existing responsibilities.

b) The course of instruction is necessary to meet any valid public purpose as it relates to the performance of duties.

c) The course of instruction is required to complete the degree sought by the employee.

7) Are there time constraints in the reimbursement process?

Yes. The employee needs to submit an application for educational enhancement to the committee at least two (2) months prior to the start date of the class or course.

8) Will reimbursement be made for private institutions or out-of-state?

No. Preference shall be given to those requesting enrollment at a state-supported institution of higher learning or accredited vocational/technical school.

9) What if the class I want to attend is offered during working hours?

It depends on the agency operations during the employee's proposed change in work schedule as to whether the person can attend the course. The employee must use annual leave, or take leave without pay to cover the absence from work unless an alternative work schedule can be mutually arranged.

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10) What about on-line college courses?

On-line courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Courses that are offered on-line must be accredited and offered through an institution within the boundaries of the State of West Virginia.

11) Will my final grade be a factor in determining the amount of money I am reimbursed?

Yes. The employee must receive an undergraduate course grade of "A" for reimbursement to be paid at 100 percent; "B" for reimbursement at 90 percent; and "C" for reimbursement at 75 percent. For graduate courses, a grade of "A" will be paid at 100 percent and "B" at 90 percent. There is no reimbursement for a grade less than a "B".

12) What is my obligation to the agency for being reimbursed?

Once the employee has successfully completed individual college or university courses, the employee is expected to work three months for each credit hour earned.

13) What if I leave the agency voluntarily?

The employee must refund the reimbursement to the agency on a pro-rata basis based on the number of hours taken.

14) What if I leave the agency on an involuntary basis?

No refund of reimbursement is required.

15) How many hours can I take per semester?

Six (6) hours unless on an approved educational leave.

16) What forms do I submit to get approval on courses I want to take?

Go to the following link: <http://intranet.dep.gov/DEPFORMS/DEPFORMS/default.htm>

Appendix A and a letter of justification requesting expense reimbursement must be submitted by the employee to the immediate supervisor.

The letter must contain the name and description of the course, the projected term, the college/institution name and the estimated costs. Once the supervisor approves the course, paperwork must be submitted to Human Resources/Nancy Frazier.

17) Once the course has been completed, the employee needs to complete:

Appendix C, Appendix B, Appendix B-1, which must be notarized, and attach all receipts and grades and submit to Nancy Frazier in Human Resources, room 3045.



Jim Hartzfeld, managing director of InterfaceRAISE, tells a University of Charleston audience there are huge business opportunities in incorporating sustainable practices.

A door with no handle

Once you see benefits of sustainability, you'll be hooked, speaker says

By Tom Aluise

Jim Hartzfeld thinks businesses that move toward sustainable practices step through a door with no return.

And, in this case, that's a good thing, he said.

"There is no handle on the other side," Hartzfeld said. "Once you see this thing (sustainability), you can't un-see it. When people choose to go through that door, they'll find things they've never seen before."

Hartzfeld was the keynote speaker at last month's "Making the Business Case for Sustainability" conference at the University of Charleston. The conference, which drew close to 150 people, was sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, UC and ZMM Architects and Engineers.

Hartzfeld is managing director of InterfaceRAISE, a consulting service that helps businesses and organizations adopt a more sustainable philosophy in their operations. InterfaceRAISE is a division of Interface Inc., which manufactures environmentally responsible floor coverings. The efforts of Interface to incorporate more sustainable practices into its business operations led to the creation of InterfaceRAISE.

Hartzfeld told business leaders that applying sustainable ideas to everyday operations isn't just about being environmentally friendly or simply doing what is right.

It makes sense for the bottom line, too, he said.

"This is not about just following the rules," Hartzfeld said. "Companies are seeing huge business opportunities in sustainability. This isn't

New Additions

Recent DEP hires

- ▶ Douglas Hammell, DAQ
- ▶ Jeffrey McCauley, AML
- ▶ Robert Orcutt, Admin.
- ▶ Aven Sizemore, DMR
- ▶ Patricia Sizemore, DWWM

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DOOR

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about tree-hugging. It's about business, technology and growth. That's why businesses are seeing it as a way of doing business."

Hartzfeld said Interface has saved close to \$450 million over the past 15 years by applying sustainable practices to its work. It has saved energy, reduced water use and cut carbon dioxide emissions. Interface hopes to eliminate the use of oil in its manufacturing by 2020.

Hartzfeld said the whole concept of sustainability works best when everyone is on the same page. Engaging employees is essential to a truly sustainable operation.

"The most important thing that is often left out of the equation is the people in the organization," Hartzfeld said. "We found that engaging people in new ways not



There was a good turnout for the "Making the Case for Sustainability" conference at the University of Charleston.

only gets them on board, but sometimes they come up with even better ideas.

"It's about humans moving forward and finding a better way. In every case and in every situation, there's always a better way.

"You just have to find it."

How a company engages people is important as well, Hartzfeld said.

"There is no spread-

sheet that is more powerful than a good story," he said.

Other speakers at the conference included Chris Liston, project manager for CB Richard Ellis Sustainability Programs; Sandy Nessing, director Sustainability & ESH Strategy & Design for American Electric Power; Mark Bueltmann, manager Sustainable Supplier Development for American Electric Power; and Anita

Snader, manager Environmental Sustainability for Armstrong Building Products.

"The conference was a phenomenal success," said DEP Sustainability Officer Greg Adolfson. "People appreciated each company's examples of sustainability and realized that there is much to learn from what others are already doing. So really, there is no need to re-invent the wheel.

"Large-scale energy efficiency at a manufacturing business may translate very well to a small- to medium-size company with great results.

"Now we have to focus our efforts on assisting businesses from creating awareness for sustainability to developing sustainability programs that have a positive return on investment."

For conference results and presentations go to: <http://www.zmm.com/archives/59.html>.

WHALES

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The Alaskan wildlife is beautiful, wild, and sometimes comical.

"We saw sea otters swimming out by a buoy," Kromer said. "One sea otter was trying to eat a starfish. He was swimming on his back, using his stomach as a table. His little hands were busy, working the starfish. It was funny."

It can also be huge.

"We saw the fin of a killer whale, commonly referred to as an orca," Kromer said. "It was 4 feet tall! And we saw several humpback whales.

"Did you know they are about the size of a bus? We saw everything but their heads. The only sound we heard was when they spouted (exhaled)."

The Kromers were in Alaska until July 18, when they made their long trek home.

"We took only enough



Mike Kromer and his son didn't spend all their time on the water during a trip to Alaska.

clothes for travel, sleeping and fishing," Kromer said. "We took only what would fit in a carry-on bag.

"The fish we brought home traveled as checked luggage. The clothes I wore fishing came home in a plastic bag.

"They had a rather noticeable fishy smell.

"I was told by one of the guys on the trip that

I should just throw my clothes away. I really liked the pants, so I brought them home and after my wife washed them four times, she got the fishy smell out."

Kromer said he and his son each brought 150 pounds of halibut fillets home to eat.

Seeing, and fishing in, the Alaskan wilderness was definitely one trip for the memory

box.

"I will never forget this trip," Kromer said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I got to see the real wilderness and it's beautiful.

"I got to see many of God's creatures — I saw some bald eagles and they are magnificent, and, most importantly, I got to make memories with my son."

DEP major player on Abram Creek



The Little Creek doser near Mount Storm in Grant County is one of three dosers that will treat Abram Creek's acid-laden waters. The doser was activated by state and local officials during an August ceremony.

Treatment sites bringing life back to stream

By Tom Aluise

For Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro, the Office of Abandoned Mine Lands' restoration efforts on Abram Creek are hitting close to home.

Years ago, Jezioro fished the creek when it was full of trout, before acid drainage from area pre-law mining choked off much of the life in the stream.

"Abram Creek used to be a trout stream and when I was in high school, I fished Abram Creek," Jezioro said last month during a kickoff ceremony near Mount Storm, where state and local officials activated one of three dosers that will treat the stream with acid-neutralizing alkaline materials.

"By completing this project, we're hoping to bring



From left, AML's Eric Coberly, DNR Director Frank Jezioro and the DEP's Ed Hamrick flip the switch on the Little Creek doser.

back 20 to 25 miles of trout stream," Jezioro announced at the ceremony. "And, as we know, trout are a barometer of clean water."

Jezioro was joined at the event by Ed Hamrick, assistant to DEP Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman. Hamrick also serves as the state liaison to the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program, the group which coordinated the Abram Creek initiative.

"The Abram Creek restora-

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DEP set to host Water Festival

By Colleen O'Neill

Children love water — to play with and to play in. As water is a key element to life, children relish the opportunity to experience and learn about it.

The Children's Water Festival is such an opportunity.

This year, the Festival will be on Friday, Sept. 17, at the Marshall Graduate College in South Charleston. This is the 11th water festival and many of the area youth take part. About 275 fourth- and fifth-grade students are expected to attend.

The presenters and adults manning the classes and activities are from the Department of Environmental Protection and fellow government agencies.

The agencies are the Bureau for Public Health, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The adults who man the booths and lead the activities are called the guides.

The water festival consists of structural learning stations and exhibits, where students actively engage in hands-on water activities and investigations.

Tentative classes scheduled include pollution prevention and you; the tragic story of Freddy the Fish; earth parfaits; watershed detectives; and air, water, and puddles.

Activities include making rainsticks and a stormwater obstacle course.

The water festival exposes children to this important subject in a way that both complements and reinforces traditional classroom learning, and that's also fun and exciting.

DEP August retirements

Arnold McCartney

Division of Land Restoration

Last day: Aug. 31, 2010

Years of service: 18



In addition to the doser sites on Abram Creek, limestone sand will be periodically dumped at three other locations. Fairfax Materials Inc., is providing and transporting materials for one year to the three limestone sites. The Abram Creek project was designed and engineered in house by staff from the Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation.

ABRAM

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tion epitomizes the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program’s (HAP) creed,” Hamrick said. “Multiple partners from different government agencies, as well as private entities, worked together and drew upon existing resources to achieve a common goal.

“That’s been my mission as a state liaison to HAP. To restore 25 miles of trout stream, of which close to six miles are native brook trout, is especially fulfilling.”

The DEP’s AML program footed the \$850,000 bill for the project, which will improve water quality on more than six miles of tributary streams and on more than 18 miles of the Abram Creek mainstem that flow through Grant and Mineral counties.

“Multiple partners from different government agencies, as well as private entities, worked together and drew upon existing resources to achieve a common goal.”

— Ed Hamrick

In addition to the three doser sites, three additional locations in the watershed are part of the project.

Treatment at those sites includes the periodic dumping of limestone sand directly into the stream. Fairfax Materials Inc. will provide and transport materials for one year to the three additional treatment sites.

Jeziro had good news for the area’s trout fishermen.

The DNR chief said if monitoring indicates the stream’s pH level is suitable and stable, the DNR could be stocking Abram Creek with trout by February 2011.

If successful, it will become part of the DNR’s spring stocking schedule as a monthly stocked water.

Trout fishing alone in Abram Creek could bring in \$600,000 annually.

The watershed treatment project was designed and engineered in-house by AML staffers, who also will continue to monitor water quality, along with personnel from the DEP’s Division of Water and Waste Management.

“That saves a tremendous amount of money,” AML Chief Eric Coberly said. “We were spending a huge amount of money on post-monitoring.”

Because Abram Creek flows into the North Branch of the Potomac and thus into the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland joined West Virginia in its efforts and will operate and maintain the three dosers.

“We appreciate the assistance from the state of Maryland,” Coberly said.

Sustainable Schools Summit moved to April

Marshall University, in partnership with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, will present the 2010 Sustainable Schools West Virginia Summit April 10-11, 2011.

The previously scheduled summit was moved due to scheduling conflicts.

The free event is designed to bring together educational leaders in elementary, secondary and higher education — both public and private — to discuss the important roles schools, colleges and universities have in creating sustainable campuses across West Virginia. The summit will take place on Marshall’s Huntington campus and is open to public and private higher education, as well as public and private K-12 schools.

Online registration is available at <http://apps.dep.wv.gov/> registration. An agenda is also available at this site.

The summit is presented in concert and partnership with the WVDEP, Marshall University’s Sustainability Department, State Electric Supply Company, and ZMM, Inc. For information, contact MU Sustainability Manager Margie Phillips at: philli10@marshall.edu or 304-696-2992.

DRILLING

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“We’re committed to operating as safely as possible,” he said.

During the meeting, Manchin asked Huffman to appoint a seven-to nine-member panel in an effort to find common ground and possibly propose legislation on issues relating to the Marcellus Shale and natural gas drilling.

Huffman stressed that horizontal drilling methods used to reach gas in the Marcellus Shale likely will be regulated differently from conventional vertical drilling.

“I’m not looking at changing anything with conventional oil and gas drilling,” Huffman said.

“Horizontal drilling is a different industry at the end of the day. It needs to be regulated differently.”

Transportation Secretary Paul Mattox also attended the meeting and outlined his agency’s plans to address the potential impacts on state roads from heavy truck traffic associated with increased gas well drilling activity.

“Our goal is to keep the roads in good repair,” Mattox said.

'Biggest loser' was a winning idea

Teresa Weaver is an administrative services assistant in the DEP's Office of Administration/Human Resources. She is chiefly responsible for employee benefits and work-site wellness. A native of Boone County,



Weaver

Weaver has been with the DEP for 3½ years. She is married with two children. Daughter Janie is 24 and son Nicholas is 19.



With Teresa Weaver

Corporate Cup titles?

I would like to take some credit, but it would be undeserved. Many DEP employees are very health-conscious and competitive. Their hard work and dedication to the competition is outstanding and they deserve all of the credit. I will say that the encouragement and provisions made by DEP to allow employees to exercise and participate in wellness activities is an essential part of the overall health of DEP employees.

5. What are the best and worst ideas you've ever had for a Wellness activity?

The best ideas have been the Biggest Loser Program we ran for two years and the Farmer's Market we are currently sponsoring. I can't think of anything that have been too bad. Some things have not been as successful as others, but it has all been done with the best intentions and even if we only reached one or two people, it was definitely worth the effort.

6. How healthy are DEP employees?

In comparison to other offices I have worked, DEP employees are much more health-conscious and concerned about their well-being.

However, there are areas that could use some improvement such as preventative care and proactive attitudes.

The biggest challenge we all face is what may come down the road. Many of us don't worry about illness or disease until it happens to us or someone in our family and very often it is too late and the damage is irreversible.

We should strive to learn as much as we can about the health issues we are facing and use that to determine a healthplan of action. Knowledge is power and if we know that our health risks are increased due to genetics or other factors, we should strive to learn as much as we can and use it to lower our risks and hopefully prevent serious health conditions later on.

This has been the biggest barrier I have experienced during my tenure at DEP and I would like to encourage folks to take advantage of the no-cost health screenings that our insurance provides and take a good look at their lifestyle and see what improvements can be made to give them a better and healthier life.

7. What's the most

popular item at the weekly Farmer's Market?

Definitely the peaches. The season for peaches is just about over so folks need to enjoy them while they are still available.

8. Are DEP employees a generous bunch when it comes to blood drives?

We have some pretty low counts for our blood drives. The number of employees in the Charleston office that donate is approximately 6 to 7 percent per blood drive. We would like to see those numbers increase.

This is such an important cause. A donation from one person can save the lives of three people.

9. Has overseeing the DEP Wellness Program contributed to any lifestyle changes for you?

I am more aware of the benefits of a healthy diet and physical activity, as well as preventative care. I never realized how much early prevention practices can change our health outcomes as we get older.

10. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Getting to meet so many wonderful people and coordinating wellness programs and events. There are a lot of fun things we do with wellness and I am very glad to be part of something so positive.

1. What is the most time-consuming part of your job?

Insurance processing and related issues.

2. What is the No. 1 complaint employees have about their benefits?

High costs

3. Do you get a lot of questions about how President Obama's health care plan might affect our insurance benefits?

Yes. A lot of people are wondering about what will take place and when. We don't have a lot of information at this point, but it is my understanding that changes will not be made to PEIA insurance plans until the next plan year, which will begin on July 1, 2011.

4. As Wellness Director, don't you deserve some of the credit for the DEP's nine straight



DEP part of State Fair

More than 20 Department of Environmental Protection employees served as booth workers and presenters (including Tim Craddock, Save Our Streams director, at left) during the August State Fair of West Virginia in Lewisburg.

Scheduled presenters included REAP's

Travis Cooper and Anna Shahan; the Division of Air Quality's Jay Fedczak and Stephanie Hammonds; the Youth Environmental Program's Diana Haid, Nick Pahoundis and Phil Jones; Southern Basin Coordinator Jennifer DuPree; and the Office of Explosives and Blasting.

Volunteers get break from work

By Colleen O'Neill

Picnics are a great way to get outside and enjoy agreeable weather, beautiful scenery and good company.

The Department of Environmental Protection's annual Adopt-A-Highway picnic enabled statewide volunteers to relax and take pleasure in each other, without having to be on cleanup duty.

On Saturday, Aug. 7 at Cacapon State Park in Berkeley County, 315 adults and children gathered to celebrate their commitment to a litter-free West Virginia.

"The location changes each year," said Anna Shahan, AAH coordinator for the DEP. "We move it around the state to make it accessible to as many volunteers as



This year's Adopt-A-Highway appreciation picnic attracted 315 people to Cacapon State Park in Berkeley County on Aug. 7. The picnic is located at a different site every year.

possible.

"People play games such as horseshoes, baseball, sack races, tug of war, bingo and guessing games," Shahan said.

"Winners get a prize ticket and can choose from a table full of

prizes. There is also a caricature artist and face painter who provide their service at no charge to the volunteers."

Besides sharing good food, good company, and a good time, volunteers were presented with

hubcap awards.

Here's a rundown-

- Farthest Traveler Award (traveled the farthest to get to the picnic) — The Litchfield Family, 239 miles.

- Grandfather Award (in the program 20 years or longer) — Panhandle Sams, 1988-2010; Bloomery CEOs, 1989-2010; McCubbin Community, 1989-2010; Salem Church of Christ, 1990-2010; TOPS WV No. 202 Burton, 1989-2010.

- 2010 Most Active Litter Picker (conducted the most cleanups) — VFW Colonel Rowan, Post 2345, 48 roadside cleanups.

- 2010 Greatest Litter Picker (picked up the most pounds of litter) — Bloomery CEOs, 101,535 pounds of litter picked up.

Adopt-A-Highway Group Awards

- The Litchfield family has picked up 5,705 lbs of litter since Sept. 2000.

- Capon Valley Ruritans have picked up 26,715 lbs of litter since March 1990.

- Cox's Mills Tail Twisters 4-H Club has picked up 33,425 lbs of litter since April 1973.

- Mill Island 4-H Club has picked up 3,395 lbs of litter since Nov. 2006.

- Middle Island Canoeing Club has picked up 3,535 lbs of litter since May 2005.

- Nay Chapel Sunday School has picked up 1,575 lbs of litter since June 2008.

- The Moton and Smith families have picked up 840 lbs of litter since June 2007.

- The Coberly family has picked up 7,735 lbs of litter since Feb. 2005.

- Howard and Natalie Oakes have picked up 735 lbs of litter since July 2002.

- LRV Property Owners have picked up 7,385 lbs of litter since May 1994.

- Rio DelRay Ruritans have picked up 22,750 lbs of litter since July 1996.

- Top of the Hollow Farm has picked up 1,120 lbs of litter since July 2002.

- Hoy Community has picked up 5,180 lbs of litter since May 2002.

- The Bonnell and Farrow Families have picked up 3,430 lbs of litter since Oct. 2003.

- The Lawless Family has picked up 1,260 lbs of litter since March 2008.

- Scrabble Road Residents have picked up 8,260 lbs of litter since April 2006.

- Panhandle Sams have picked up 32,900 lbs of litter since Sept. 1988.

- Paw Paw Lions Club has picked up 24,780 lbs of litter since Dec. 1989.

- Bedington Ruritan Club has picked up 20,825 lbs of litter since April 1990.

- Danny Marks Garage and Towing has picked up 1,680 lbs of litter since March 2009.

- Paul Apple has picked up 6,580 lbs of litter since Oct. 2000.

- Wilsonburg Lions Club has picked up 37,625 lbs of litter since Oct. 1999.

- Joy Lane Navy has picked up 4,270 lbs of litter since May 2002.

- F.O.P. Lodge #83 has picked up 27,195 lbs of litter since April 1999.

- Keep Jefferson Beautiful, Inc. has picked up 4,515 lbs of litter since April 2002.

- Evergreen 4-H Club has picked up 7,105 lbs of litter since March 1992.

- Union Chapel Methodist Church has picked up 1,960 lbs of litter since July 2001.

- Anderson Electric, LLC has picked up 7,210 lbs of litter since April 2004.

- John and Rosa Reid have picked up 1,890 lbs of litter since Oct. 2004.

- Capon Bridge Ruritans have picked up 21,875 lbs of litter since April 1989.

- Horse Creek Community has picked up 18,690 lbs of litter since June 1996.

- McCartney and Groggs have picked up 8,645 lbs of litter since June 1999.

- Burnt House Community Association has picked up 3,080 lbs of litter since 2005.

- The Walking Neighbors on Excelsior Road have picked up 1,820 lbs of litter since June 2006.

- High Country Garden Club has picked up 5,565 lbs of litter since 1989.

- Sons of the American Legion #60 have picked up 11,375 lbs of litter since Jan. 1992.

- Martinsburg Squadron Civil Air Patrol has picked up 36,435 lbs of litter since March 1998.

- Manown Moundbuilders 4-H Club has picked up 11,165 lbs of litter.