

Mr. Clean

REAP's Rote still picking up after W.Va. litterbugs

By Tom Aluise

It's nearing 2 o'clock on a warm afternoon and Greg Rote retrieves a thermos from behind the driver's seat of his truck. Sitting at a stoplight in southern West Virginia, Rote pours himself a cup of steaming black coffee. The program manager for the DEP's Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan (REAP) admits he drinks too much java these days — Rote sips caffeine from the time he wakes up to about 5 p.m. Really, he's just a coffee lover. The resulting energy boost is simply a bonus for one of the people assigned the daunting task of keeping West Virginia clean.

In his 18th year with the DEP, Rote

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Standing along a flood-damaged highway and creek in Wyoming County, REAP Program Manager Greg Rote, left, discusses a cleanup project with Sam Stalnaker. Stalnaker is a project manager for REAP's Pollution Prevention and Open Dumps (PPOD) program, which Rote directs.

Friendships backbone of camp

By Tom Aluise

Just about every summer camp for kids has a defining foundation. Some are about sports. Others focus on spiritual aspects of life. And still others, like the Department of Environmental Protection's Junior Conservation Camp, strive to educate young people in related topics.

At the end of the day,



Campers receive instruction on proper shooting techniques from DNR employees Danny Dolin and Aaron Clevenger.

however, all camps, whether they're producing future basketball players, preachers or environmental scien-

tists, have one thing in common. New friendships are forged — some for a lifetime.

"The best thing about camp is meeting people and making new friends."

Miriam Smith

Junior Conservation Camper

And for many kids, that's what makes camp so special. "The best thing about camp is meeting people and making new friends," said 13-year-

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Plaques will honor former DEP workers

By Tom Aluise

When DEP veteran Ken Politan died on June 6, his friends in the Division of Mining and Reclamation wanted to do something to memorialize their former co-worker.

They talked about dedicating a bench or a tree in his memory.

"Then we thought, let's just have a wall in the building that's reserved for that and we'll call it a memorial wall," said

Sandy Humphreys, assistant director of administration for the Division of Mining and Reclamation. "It just kind of came to me and we all agreed on the details. It was just one of those things that was meant to be.

"Ken and I worked together for 24 years. I just felt like I really needed to push this, and I didn't have to. As soon as I mentioned it, everybody was for it. So, it worked out really good."

Humphreys took her idea to Office of Administration Chief June Casto and details were worked out to memorialize not just Politan on the wall, but any DEP employee who has passed away since October, 2004, when the agency moved into its new building.

"You have to," Humphreys said. "You just couldn't do it for one person. We figured let's just focus on employees who worked in this building, who passed away while they were employed here."

Plaques will be mounted on the wall located on the south end of the main, third-floor hallway.

Since the agency's move to Kanawha City, three DEP employees

"As soon as I mentioned it, everybody was for it. So, it worked out really good."

— **Sandy Humphreys**

Division of Mining and Reclamation, on memorial plaques

have passed away. In addition to Politan, Eric Dannaway died on Feb. 7, 2009 and Stanley Moskal died on Oct. 18, 2004. Dannaway worked in Information Technology and Moskal in the Division of Water and Waste Management.

The memorial plaques will be 9x12 and feature a gold plate attached on a wood base. They will include the words "In Memory of" and the person's name, job title, division, years of service and the dates they started and ended at the agency. Also on the plaque will be a statement from the employee's supervisor.

"We let mining take the lead," Casto said. "They got together and came up with the plaque and what would be on the plaque."

The final design and color schemes are still being worked out. Casto said she hopes the plaques are up by the end of the summer.

"I think employees will appreciate this," Casto said.

"It's always hard when a fellow employee passes away. You wonder what you can do. There hasn't been anything here that memorializes them. This is a way to do that."

One year later, plenty still to do

By Randy Huffman

One year down and who knows how many more to go.

I can say with certainty, though, that I love my job. Yes, the complexity and sheer volume of work associated with being



Message from the cabinet secretary

cabinet secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection can be overwhelming at times. It has been an eye-opener, even for a 23-year veteran of state government and a former director of mining.

The issues at the DEP are vast and the challenges relentless. I realized quickly that having a high level of understanding of all the issues is impossible. You simply devote your time to what is most important that day, or that week, or that month and trust that the rest is getting done.

And it is getting done. As I move into my second year as our department head, I'm continually impressed with how well people within the agency know their jobs. They comprehend their piece of the big pie, so to speak, and are dedicated to carrying out the DEP's mission.

A perfect example is the late Ken Politan, who we lost on June 6. Just days after his death, I found myself reaching for the phone to call Ken because he was the guy who came to mind when I had a complex mining question and needed a quick answer. The wisdom, expertise and history he took with him will never be replaced.

Certainly, we must be aware of retirements on the horizon and those that have already occurred, and recognize the huge gap in knowledge they create within the department.

Through retirements, we've lost levels of insight and understanding on mining, water and air laws that cannot be restored overnight. It's imperative that we develop ways to capture that knowledge. And we must be certain we're filling positions with dedicated people, not those who simply want to be here long enough to find another job. That makes the problem worse.

I know this job won't last forever and I know the agency will survive without me. But, to me, it's very important to leave the DEP better than I found it. The same goes for my successor. At the end of the day, that's all you can really offer.

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CAMP

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old Miriam Smith, who attended the 29th annual Junior Conservation Camp June 22-26 at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley.

This summer's camp attracted close to 200 kids, ages 11-14, from throughout West Virginia. They learned valuable lessons about the environment and gained experience in sound conservation management.

The camp was sponsored by the DEP's Youth Environmental Program, which has an enrollment of close to 70,000 kids statewide.

Smith, who'll be an eighth-grader at Wirt County Middle School in the fall, has been a Junior Conservation camper for two years.

This year, she convinced her friend, Sarah Henne, from the Newark Shining Stars 4-H Club in Wirt County, to attend the camp.

"I'm the one who talked her into it," Smith said. "I told her it was a lot of fun and that you would meet a lot of new people. She likes meeting new people."

Henne left for a volleyball camp at Penn State the Monday following conservation camp.

Like Smith, Chris Eddy, a 13-year-old rising freshman at Buckhannon-Upshur High School, is a two-year camper at Ripley. His first year at camp convinced Eddy to return in 2009.

"I think I made at least 15 friends (last year) who I still keep in touch with," said Eddy, who won a school-sponsored litter poster contest in 2008 that paid his way to camp. "I really enjoyed it, so I decided to come back."

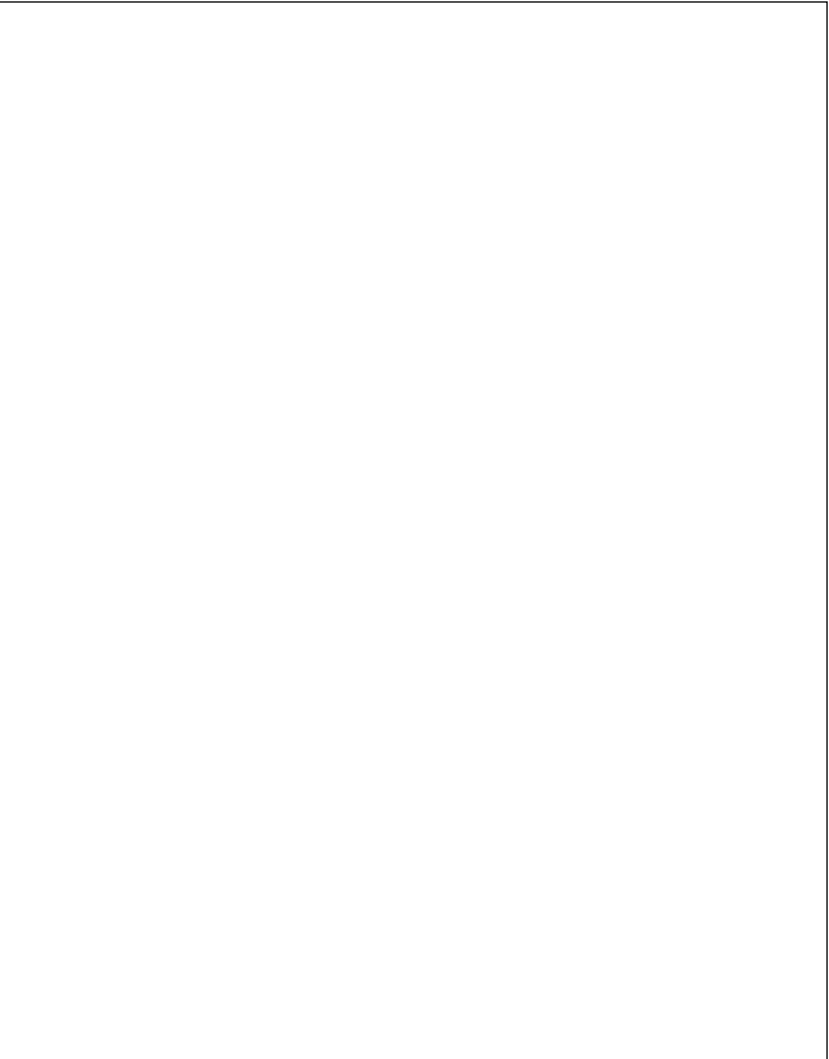
"I like all the junior leaders and I like the fact you can learn and have fun at the same time."

Campers, who were divided into groups with names such as the Yellow Bees, Brown Bears and Green Frogs, spent the week attending classes in the morning and afternoon. Evenings were reserved for sports and other games, as well as campfires.

Classes included forestry and methods; wildlife; hunter education; fishing techniques; recycling; first aid; cooking for camping; canoeing; archery and geocaching/orienteering.

Smith enjoyed taking nature walks. "I like being out in the woods. You're cool and you don't have to sit out in the sun."

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Junior Conservation camper James Mullins, from Kanawha County, slipped away from the pack at Cedar Lakes to do some fishing on his own.



Above, Nick Murray, from the DEP's Water and Waste Management Division, talks to a group of campers about pond ecology. After the talk, campers used nets to fish out interesting aquatic life from the pond. Right, Jeanne Chandler, from the DEP's Division of Air Quality, speaks to a camp assembly about energy efficiency. Chandler used several props to educate the kids, including a miniature energy-efficient home.





Renu Chakrabarty, of the Division of Air Quality, continues to work with schools around West Virginia in an effort to improve the air students breathe in and around their schools.

Idle Free Zone is not a lot of hot air

By Tom Aluise

When school begins in the fall, more than 5,000 Idle Free Zone calendars will be distributed to Kanawha County students.

The calendars' arrival (more on that later) will mark another milestone in a highly successful joint project that began in 2007 between the state departments of Environmental Protection and Education.

In 2004, the Department of Education established Policy 4336, intended to minimize the idling of diesel-fueled school buses and other vehicles on school property. The goals of the policy included improving air quality for students, lowering fuel costs and reducing wear and tear on bus engines.

Three years later, the DEP got involved by printing "Idle Free Zone" signs and distributing them at no cost to schools throughout West Virginia. The sign's wording and design was a collaborative effort from the DEP's Division of Air Quality.

To help ensure cooperation from drivers, DAQ Director John Benedict wanted the message on the sign to be positive.

"We didn't want anything negative, such as 'don't do this or that,'" said Renu Chakrabarty, the DAQ's air toxics coordinator, who also heads up the Idle Free zone project.

Today, about 2,500 Idle Free Zone signs are displayed at elementary, middle and high schools in 53 of the

"Folks are recognizing them out there."

Renu Chakrabarty

On Idle Free Zone signs

state's 55 counties. Drivers can find signs at school bus and student drop-off/pickup areas, delivery areas, athletic fields and bus garages.

"We didn't get involved in helping promote (Policy 4336) until 2007," Chakrabarty said. "We got some settlement funds earmarked to reduce diesel fuel emissions.

"We started talking to schools and they were interested. We got some folks together and it started from there."

This past winter, the DEP promoted an art contest for Kanawha County students, who were asked to produce artwork depicting a predefined air quality topic to be used in the first-ever 2009-10 Idle Free Zone calendar.

Students from 13 Kanawha County schools entered and 13 winning pieces of art were selected to be included in the calendar for each month of the year and the cover. Calendars will be distributed to all students at the participating schools.

The art contest was another effort to remind not only school personnel, but parents as well, to turn off their

Brownfield restoration on tap for conference

"Re-energizing communities" is the theme of the 2009 West Virginia Brownfields Conference, scheduled Sept. 1-2 at Morgantown's Waterfront Place Hotel.

"We're really focusing on community redevelopment — communities taking action to make something positive happen with their vacant and abandoned properties," said George Carico, project coordinator for the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines a brownfield as "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant."

Examples of brownfields include vacant warehouses and factories; abandoned railroads; former service stations; landfills; parking lots; and former coal mining sites.

"Every community has (brownfields)," Carico said. "We're not going to run out of them anytime soon."

The state Brownfields Assistance centers at Marshall and West Virginia University were established in 2005 to help West Virginia communities identify brownfields, formulate plans to redevelop properties and to assist in securing money for projects. Several federal agencies are funding sources for brownfield projects.

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DEP runners are 'losers' in a positive way

By Tom Aluise

Division of Air Quality employees Rich Boehm, Josh Woody and James Robertson are gearing up for this fall's Columbus Marathon.

Don't be surprised if the runners accomplish their goals in the grueling 26.2-mile road race. The guys know a thing or two about perseverance.



Boehm

The trio combined with fellow DAQ employee Richard Fenton to win the team division of this year's "Biggest Loser Family and Friends Challenge," sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The three-month program rewarded participants for percentage of weight loss.

Boehm and Robertson have been on the winning team two years in a row.

Also, Boehm was this year's individual winner after finishing second last year. He edged Woody for first place and a cash prize of \$616.

Boehm lost 48 pounds from Jan. 11 to April 3, representing a 21 percent drop in his weight. Woody dropped 46 pounds (19.7 percent), Robertson 36 (17.7 percent) and Fenton 35 (15.3 percent).

The team, which called itself the "Hog Bodies", split a winning check of \$924.

"I was fortunate," Boehm said. "I got the winning money about the same time the IRS wanted their money."

Boehm lost around 35 pounds in finishing second last year.

"I had to work a little harder this time to win," said Boehm, who exceeded his weight loss goal by 10 pounds.

"When the competition gets harder, you have to take drastic measures," Boehm said with a chuckle. "There was 600 bucks on the line."

Boehm said he dropped weight by changing his eating habits and increasing his weight training and running programs.

"I always exercise quite a bit," he said. "But unless I put both of them together (diet and exercise), it doesn't seem to work."

Boehm said his weight gain after last year's Biggest Loser Challenge resulted from a change in his running habits.

"I got married in August and got away from running," Boehm said. "Without running, it crept back up on me."

Boehm, who usually runs three to four miles a day, said it's doubtful he'll jump back into the DEP's weight loss program next year, even if he puts too many pounds back on in the coming months.

That's unlikely to happen, of course, as Boehm, Woody and Robertson ramp up their marathon training for the Columbus race in October.

An Idle Free Zone sign sits outside of Sissonville Middle School in Kanawha County. All but two of the 55 county school systems in West Virginia have signs on display. Below right is a winning entry from this year's Idle Free Zone school calendar contest. The drawing was submitted by Blake Austin, a student at McKinley Middle School.

IDLE

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engines.

"It's one of the things they don't think about," Chakrabarty said, "but they're getting zero miles to the gallon when they're (idling)."

More important, they're helping the environment and their children.

Exhaust from school buses, passenger vehicles and delivery trucks not only reduces air quality outside of schools, but can enter school buildings through open windows, doors and air intakes.

Diesel exhaust is of particular concern because it contains 40 hazardous air pollutants and small particles that combine with sunlight to produce smog.

Recent studies have identified diesel exhaust, including fumes from school buses, as a possible health hazard to children, who are especially at risk because their lungs are still developing and they have a faster breathing rate.

Chakrabarty said the heavy-duty aluminum signs, which were produced by inmates at the Mount Olive Correctional Complex, are working.

"Folks are recognizing them out there," she said.



Chakrabarty, whose husband, Neil, works in the DEP's Information Technology Office, drives by an Idle Free Zone at Richmond Elementary School every day on her way to and from work.

"I still get a kick out of it," the Louisville, Ky., native said.

"This is one of my more hands-on projects. Most of what I do is more policy-related.

"So, this is a nice balance to all the other stuff I do."

Chakrabarty credited DAQ co-workers for helping make the Idle Free Zone project a success.

Jeanne Chandler produced educational brochures for school bus drivers; Stephanie Hammonds developed sign content, maintains the Division of Air Quality's Idle Free Zone Web site and provided certificates for participating counties; and Tammy Mowrer maintained a tracking database for the orders and shipped most of the 2,500 signs to schools.

DEP delivers slurry study

Agency issues moratorium on new permits

By Kathy Cosco

Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman distributed the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s portion of Senate Concurrent Resolution-15 to the legislature on May 28.

The resolution called for the DEP to study the impact of coal slurry injection on ground and surface water in the state.

While the study found no evidence that coal slurry injection, by itself, affects surface water quality, Huffman issued a moratorium on the approval of coal slurry injection into mine voids in which it has not previously been approved.

Huffman appeared before the Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on Water Resources in June to discuss and answer questions about the slurry study.

“None of the sites chosen for the hydrologic assessment showed water quality impacts to surface waters caused by coal slurry injection alone,” Huffman said. “However, the study did point out

Highlights of findings

- There are 13 slurry injection sites in West Virginia.
- While several organic compounds were detected in the mine pools associated with slurry injection, there were no organic compounds found in surface and ground water samples taken during site-specific investigations.
- Samples taken downgradient in a mine pool where slurry injection occurred showed no physical evidence of the migration of slurry solids.
- Certain constituents such as alkalinity, Total Dissolved Solids, sulfates and some organic compounds had migrated from the slurry into the mine pool that received the injection.
- The study found there is no universal tracer to indicate the presence of coal slurry as distinguished from other mining activities on surface and ground water.
- The study found that most sites lacked adequate background data on mine pools and groundwater monitoring prior to injection.

areas where improvements can be made in the Underground Injection Program. While the Department of Health and Human Resources conducts its portion of the study, we will be making changes to our permitting program and gathering more information from the operators.”

In addition to the moratorium, the study called for recommendations such as requiring site-specific groundwater monitoring during the injection proc-

ess and requiring a full baseline survey for organic constituents and heavy metals for all nearby surface and groundwater resources for all new permits.

Slurry is a by-product of solid material and liquid used to clean dirt, mud and other material from coal once it is mined.

Slurry injection is the practice of piping the mixture into an inactive underground mine cavity.

Once injected, the coal fines, rock, and other

heavy materials settle to the bottom of the mine pool, creating what is known as the solid portion of the slurry.

The liquid portion then mixes with the water in the mine pool.

The study found that mine pools that receive injection show constituents in the pool that migrate from the slurry into the water in the pool, but none of those constituents were found in the surface water tested.

The study also points out that because slurry has many of the same properties as coal, it is nearly impossible to tell whether the compounds found in some mine pool water were caused by slurry or previous mining related disturbances.

However, it was found that finished consumable water from two public water systems that draw water from a mine that receives slurry injection met the EPA’s Primary Drinking Water Standards.

The samples collected and analyzed by this study will be shared with the DHHR to use as it begins its part of the study.

A copy of the study is available on the DEP’s website at www.wvdep.org/dmr/slurrystudy.



Andy Sheets, of the Division of Forestry, talks to campers about pacing.

CAMP

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For 14-year-old Raleigh County resident and future Marshall Fork High student Marshall Meadows, the camp wasn’t all that different from home.

“I like hanging out with everybody and doing stuff that’s fun with your friends,” he said.

Personnel from the Division of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and the WVU Extension Camp assisted DEP staffers during the week.

“They’re teaching important environmental lessons, but they’re making it fun,” camp Director Diana Haid said. “They’re letting you get your hands wet and your feet dirty.”



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

Biggest Loser 2009 Challenge

Top 5 individuals

- Richard Boehm (Team Hog Bodies, Charleston)
- Josh Woody (Team Hog Bodies, Charleston)
- James Robertson (Team Hog Bodies, Charleston)
- Betty Cox (Team Fat-2-Fit, Philippi)
- Richard Fenton (Team Hog Bodies, Charleston).

Top 5 teams

- Hog Bodies (Boehm, Woody, Robertson, Fenton)
- Fat-2-Fit (Carla Poling, Betty Cox)
- Git Fit (Angela Chestnut, Scott Chestnut)
- Daugherty Drop (Chris Daugherty, Tom Daugherty)
- Flab-u-less 4 (Gloria Shaffer, Linda Shaffer, Carrie Taylor, Ann Baldwin)

LOSER

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"I've taken enough money," Boehm said. "I shouldn't have put that weight back on. If I put it back on again, I don't have the right to get back in there. I've got to keep it off for myself this time."

Home Depot stores recycling your CFLs

Looking for something to do with your compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) once they burn out?



Home Depot recently announced an in-store CFL recycling program at all of its stores in the U.S.

Customers are welcome to bring in expired, unbroken CFL bulbs.

They can be placed in a plastic bag and deposited to the collection unit in the Home Depot store.

Collection units are located in the front of stores, near the return desk and near the exit doors.

Home Depot has enlisted the services of an environmental management company to coordinate packaging, transportation and recycling.

CFLs use two-thirds less energy than a standard incandescent bulb.

DAQ workshop hits the airwaves

When the DEP's Division of Air Quality decided to video conference its Charleston workshop on reporting greenhouse gas emissions, Fred Durham had some reservations.

"Our biggest fear was having people in our regional offices looking at a blank screen, but that didn't happen," said Durham, the DAQ's deputy director and assistant director for planning. "We were also concerned about whether people (in regional offices) would be able to hear questions from the audience and see the speaker respond. That worked out pretty well."

It worked out so well that Durham said the DAQ will consider using video conferencing for future workshops.

"This is the first time we've done it," he said. "I think other divisions in the agency have used the capability before. We realized it would help, but we also received some requests from outside the agency to provide it."

The May 11 workshop provided information to environmental staff at large air pollutant emitting sources

about calculating greenhouse gas emissions and reporting the data to the DEP. This year, the DEP made such reporting mandatory.

"This is the first time that greenhouse gas reporting will be required for many West Virginia facilities," Durham said. "We wanted to make sure that they have the tools to do it right and we wanted to make it more convenient to get the information."

Information also was provided about the EPA's proposed GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule.

The workshop was video-conferenced to DEP regional offices in Fairmont, Romney and Wheeling. About 40 people attended the actual workshop in Charleston and about 25 to 30 watched in regional offices.

"Several people told me they were glad they didn't have to drive to Charleston (to participate in the workshop)," said the DAQ's Brian Tephabock, who works out of the Fairmont office.

"This way, they can see the material without having to worry about possibly traveling in adverse weather."

CONFERENCE

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Brownfields are often turned into new real estate for housing or commercial use or for greenspace on which new parks and recreation facilities can be built.

The first day of September's conference features several different sessions, including an introduction to brownfields; financing brownfield projects, which is geared toward developers; continuing education for licensed remediation specialists; and a vacant and abandoned property forum, highlighting what other areas of the country are doing with brownfields.

The second day includes a workshop during which several West Virginia communi-

ties will present their plans for brownfield development.

The EPA, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, West Virginia Development Office and the state chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association are partnering with the Brownfields Assistance Center for this year's conference.

Keynote speakers will be Kelley Goes, cabinet secretary for the state Department of Commerce, and Mary Hunt-Lieving, from the Benedum Foundation.

Registration is from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Sept. 1. For more information or to register go to: www.wvbrownfields.org.



Greg Rote, far left, looks on as Sam Stalnaker, second from right, talks to contractors about a Wyoming County cleanup.

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oversees the various recycling efforts and state cleanup programs under REAP.

Born in Fairmont and raised in Oklahoma, Rote graduated from Oklahoma State and spent the first 10 years out of college toiling in oil fields in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and Ohio.

He joined the DEP in 1991 and spent 10 years working in water resources, where he wrote the state’s first water permits for landfills. The St. Albans resident used that experience to earn a master’s degree from Marshall University in environmental science.

“I was actually able to use the work I was doing for the DEP for my master’s thesis, which was determining what clean storm water from a landfill in West Virginia should look like.”

Most of Rote’s time now is spent with REAP’s Pollution Prevention and Open Dumps (PPOD) program, which targets illegal dumps throughout the state.

Litter Cam is watching you

Smile, you’re on the Department of Environmental Protection’s Litter Cam.

In its ongoing effort to rid West Virginia of litter, the DEP’s Pollution Prevention and Open Dumps program (PPOD) continues to make strides in its use of hidden video cameras.

Currently, PPOD has three cameras under contract that are moved statewide on a monthly basis to sites where illegal dumping is a problem.

Footage captured on the cameras is used to prosecute offenders.

Greg Rote, who heads up the PPOD program, said four to five people a year are convicted from Litter Cam footage.

“I like it when we get little victories on the surveillance cameras,” Rote said.

“Those are a lot of fun.”

Of course, the cameras occasionally catch more on tape than litter bugs.

Rote has seen everything from bathroom breaks to apparent drug deals on Litter Cam footage. One tape even showed a couple’s car rolling off the road and into a creek.

Apparently, Rote said, the passenger was giving a driving lesson.

Figuring out the best place to hide the cameras can be interesting, too — and costly.

One camera, stashed inside a Tim Hortons coffee cup, was eaten by a bear who sniffed out some cream and sugar that had been in the cup.

Baby diapers have proven to be safe havens for hidden cameras.

“You put some brown shoe polish on it and nobody is going to pick it up,” Rote said.

PPOD also handles the never-ending task of ridding West Virginia’s land and waters of old tires.

“You don’t get bored with this job because you do something different every day,” said Rote, 50, who started with the PPOD program in 2001 as a project manager. He was named

acting program manager for REAP in 2005 and took the position on a permanent basis a year later.

On this day, Rote is meeting with several contractors on a creek cleanup project in flood-ravaged Wyoming County, where recent high waters left parts of Little Huff Creek full of

trash. The job was too big for county officials or volunteers to tackle, so state assistance was needed.

Sam Stalnaker, one of four PPOD project managers who help cover the state for Rote, gives contractors a tour of the cleanup area. Its waters

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CLEAN

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muddied and its banks littered with unsightly debris, Little Huff Creek is divided into four sections for cleanup.

Later in the day, Stalnaker, who works out of Summersville, will get bids on each of the four jobs from the West Virginia-based contractors.

"Most of the PPOD guys have worked every weekend, except holiday weekends, the last three months," Rote said between sips of coffee on the drive to Wyoming County.

Down time is rare for Rote and his PPOD staff, who stay busy from February through December cleaning up flood-damaged creeks, tracking down and eliminating illegal open dumps and collecting old tires. Work is done in all types of weather, from frigid cold to stifling heat.

Some projects are completed with the help of outside contractors or correctional facility inmates.

PPOD takes on others itself, with armies of volunteers providing assistance.

West Virginia county officials also are becoming more diligent in eliminating litter through a three-year-old REAP initiative that encourages them to appoint litter control officers and to write more citations for violations.

"It's helping a lot," Rote said. "They're



Greg Rote looks over debris-filled Little Huff Creek in Wyoming County during a recent stop in Southern West Virginia. Rote drives between 2,000-3,000 miles a month on the job.

(counties) finding out that people will clean up."

Since PPOD was established in 1989, it has cleaned up 13,544 illegal dumps, cleared 1,730 miles of stream, collected 1,745,000 tires and recycled 25,100 tons of steel.

More than 20,000 volunteers have contributed to the effort, which has resulted in 9,124 acres of reclaimed land.

Most of PPOD's work is on right of ways and public land.

"If a county comes to us and says this is the way we want to run our litter cleanup program, then we'll make it work," Rote said. "If a volunteer group comes to us and says we want to do a litter cleanup, we'll make it happen.

"I've got a lot of good guys with the PPOD pro-

gram. If I tell them to do something, I know it's going to get done."

PPOD is involved in close to 1,100 projects a year and spends \$2.2 million on open dump cleanups and tire collections.

As he drives West Virginia's back roads pointing out former dump and tire sites, Rote is in his element.

He is in his DEP headquarters office only about four or five hours a week, usually handling litter and dump complaints or filling out paperwork. Rote drives between 2,000 and 3,000 miles a month in his state-issued REAP truck, participating in or organizing cleanups, investigating potential illegal dumps and collecting tires.

There are few roads in the state he hasn't

traveled and few stories he hasn't heard.

His favorite phone calls and letters are from satisfied West Virginia residents whose lives improved because a nearby dump was cleaned up or litter was removed from a stream in front of their home.

Others are frustrated because cleanups don't happened fast enough. Rote said that's a continual struggle for his program. Its resources are stretched very thin.

"Anytime we get a complaint," Rote said, "we'll try to get it cleaned up. But it's tough."

And if the cleanup involves kids, that makes the project that much better for Rote.

"It's a win-win thing," he said. "Not only are you cleaning up things, you're changing their mindset."

TMDL to be set for Monongahela tributaries

The Department of Environmental Protection will begin the process of developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for a number of Monongahela River tributary waters.

The streams of interest are located between the confluence of the West Fork and Tygart rivers and the West Virginia/Pennsylvania border.

For 12 months, beginning July 1, the agency will gather in-stream water quality data. Planned efforts include the sam-

pling of 159 sites on 109 streams to monitor iron, aluminum, manganese, total suspended solids, fecal coliform, total dissolved solids and constitute ions of total dissolved solids. Biological assessments will also be performed at many locations. Information gathered through this process will guide the development of TMDLs.

A public meeting will be scheduled in the near future to present sampling plans and to provide an introduction to the TMDL devel-

opment process.

The agency originally proposed to also pursue TMDL development in specific areas of the Little Kanawha watershed, but resource constraints do not allow the work to be accomplished at this time.

The areas of study originally proposed will be addressed in a Little Kanawha River watershed effort at the next opportunity for the Hydrologic Group D Watershed Management Framework cycle.



Tim Craddock, West Virginia Save our Streams coordinator, gives Richmond Elementary students a lesson in pond biology.

DEP helps kids outside of school

By Tom Aluise

Often, the best learning environment for kids is far away from desks and chalkboards.

That's the idea behind the annual Richmond Elementary Outdoor Classroom at Camp Virgil Tate.

This spring marked the 18th year for the event, which took place on May 27-28 and included 44 energetic third-graders, who stayed overnight at the camp.

"There is a lot of learning that takes place outside the classroom," said Kim Shomo, a third-grade teacher at Richmond Elementary and the Outdoor Classroom's organizer. "This is such a wonderful thing."

Several Department of Environmental Protection employees participated in the Outdoor Classroom, including the Public Information Office's Diana Haid and Annette Bennett, who spoke to the kids about the importance of recycling. They enhanced their presenta-

tion with interesting facts and figures, as well as some props.

The DEP's Tim Craddock, West Virginia Save our Streams coordinator, taught a class in pond biology. Nets in hand, Craddock and the kids waded into Camp Virgil Tate's pond in search of anything interesting.

"We were looking for anything to catch that would help tell the story of the pond," Craddock said. "The kids would talk about what they found and try to ID it. They had a lot of fun. I'm told that was one of their favorite classes."

Other classes over the two days included tree ID, hunter safety, archery, fishing, entomology, enviroscape and astronomy. There were also games, skits and music.

Shomo said the Outdoor Classroom annually offers many students activities they had never experienced before, such as canoeing and even making the traditional campfire treat, S'mores.

The DEP's Diana Haid, left, and Annette Bennett talk to grade school kids at Camp Virgil Tate about the importance of recycling.



WORK

Continued from Page 2

We all need to share that philosophy. It's easy to walk away because we no longer have a dog in the fight.

Instead, we must strive to leave each of our divisions in capable hands.

For me, a personal accomplishment was bringing in Lisa McClung as the deputy secretary, moving Tom Clarke in as mining director and ultimately convincing Scott Mandirola to take over as acting director of water. And having Division of Air Quality Director John Benedict change his mind about retirement helped too.

Putting that structure in place — along with Communications Director Kathy Cosco and Division of Land Restoration Director Ken Ellison, who both came on board before my tenure as cabinet secretary — completed the puzzle.

Not having competent people in those high-level positions would make a difficult job virtually impossible for me.

We also continue to make progress in staying ahead of environmental issues and becoming more proactive in dealing with them. So much of what we do, by nature, is in reaction to the legislature, EPA or the public.

Historically, I've seen this agency sit back — even though we can see something coming — and not do anything about it. Then, we're at the mercy of the press, the public or the politicians and we're not guiding and leading on an issue.

We've kind of changed that policy and philosophy over the past couple of years. For me, it's so much easier to deal with the relentlessness of the issues and the stress and strains of the job when you can look ahead, see what's coming and prepare yourself.

That is the single, biggest change we've made and it works.

I have found that being honest is vital. You must have the trust not only of the people who work for you, but of those outside the agency as well. Being honest and straightforward has served me better than any skill or ability I have. People appreciate that. You don't get that everywhere.

It will be a constant from the DEP's cabinet secretary as long as I'm fortunate enough to serve our state and its people.

Huffman appears before U.S. Senate subcommittee

Department of Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife on June 25 in Washington, D.C.

The hearing dealt with the effects of mountaintop mining. Also testifying were Margaret Palmer, head of the Chesapeake Biologi-

cal Lab at the University of Maryland; John "Randy" Pomponio, from the EPA's environmental assessment and innovation division; Paul Sloan, of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; and Maria Gunnoe, an anti-mountaintop mining activist from Boone County and a 2009 Goldman Environmental Prize winner.

Fall deadline set for flower photo contest

Picture taking in West Virginia is in full bloom and the departments of Environmental Protection and Transportation are looking for the best photographs to include in their 2010 wildflower calendar.

Entries for the seventh annual West Virginia Operation Wildflower "Roadsides in Bloom" calendar contest are due Oct. 1, 2009.

"We normally have over 100 entries," said Anna Shahan, coordinator of the DEP's Adopt-A-Highway program. "Anyone can enter. You don't have to be a native West Virginian."

Pictures, however, must be taken in West Virginia. Twelve winners will be selected to represent the months of the year and a grand prize winner will have his or her photo displayed on the calendar's cover.

Other contest rules are:

- Entries must be submitted as an 8x10 color print and must be landscape orientation. Portrait orientation will not be accepted.

- Flowers photographed must be growing along a West Virginia road and the road must be prominently visible in the photo. Flowers may be growing naturally or in an Operation Wildflower bed planted by the Division of Highways.

- Pictures of cultivated species planted in arranged beds, such as marigolds, pansies, etc., do not qualify.

- Name, address, phone number, e-mail address (if available) and a short description of the photo, including location and county where it was taken, must appear in the upper left hand corner on the back of the photo. Photos will not be returned.

- No more than three entries per person. One winning photo will be selected from any photographer's entries. Winners will be



Illustration by Matt Thompson

required to submit a digital copy of photo.

Entries should be mailed to: WV Operation Wildflower, Roadsides in Bloom Calendar Contest, WV Department of Environmental Protection/REAP, 601 57th St., S.E., Charleston, WV 25304.

Shahan said among the most popular flowers annually photographed are Sweet William, Ox-eye Daisy, lilies, Dame's Rocket, Black-Eyed Susan, Wild Columbine, jewelweed, ironweed and Joe Pye.

The state's Operation Wildflower beautification program is a joint effort between the DEP and the state's Division of Highways. It includes more than 250 acres of wildflowers grown on West Virginia's roadways.

Flowers on many of the sites are donated by garden clubs and the public.

For more information about the calendar or the rules of the contest, call the Adopt-A-Highway Program at 1-800-322-5530.

State Credit Union accepting members

The State Credit Union is looking for new members.

The Credit Union is open to state employees and their families and offers loans, free checking, credit cards, online banking and phone service, check cards

and many other services such as Christmas and vacation club accounts.

To join, go to: www.wvpecu.org or for more information call: 304-558-0566. The e-mail address is: contact@scuwv.com.

InDEPth briefs

DEP going for 8th straight Cup title

The Department of Environmental Protection will battle for its eighth consecutive Division III championship when the Charleston YMCA's annual Corporate Cup competition begins on July 11.

This year's Cup will run through July 25.

Every person on the DEP's roster will receive a free trial pass to the Charleston YMCA, valid until the end of July.

See event schedule page 13.

HAZ-WOPR training is scheduled for DEP

The state Laborer's Training Center in Mineral Wells will host three HAZ-WOPR refresher courses and one training course in the coming months.

The eight-hour refresher courses are scheduled for July 14, Oct. 6 and Dec. 8. The 45-hour training course is scheduled Dec. 7-11.

Those who don't keep certification current will be required to take the training course.

For more information contact Tammy Canterbury at 926-0499, ext. 1669 or Jessica Henson at 926-0499, ext. 1658.

CPR/AED, first aid classes set for July

DEP offices in Fairmont, Wheeling and Logan will offer CPR/AED and first aid classes in July.

On July 15, the Fairmont office will offer a CPR/AED class from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wheeling will offer both classes July 22-23 and Logan will offer a CPR/AED class July 29.

Sustainability



RSAP training creates new awareness

By Tom Aluise

Did you know?

— There are 306 million people living in the United States, or 81 of us per square mile.

— Americans use 408 billion gallons of water per day, enough for 1,333 gallons per person.

— One American consumes as much energy as 13 Chinese, 31 Indians or 370 Ethiopians.

— In 1978, the average home size in the U.S. was 1,700 square feet. Today, it's 2,400 square feet.

— If the rest of the world lived like North Americans, it would take more than three planets the size of Earth to support the present world population.

Those facts are included in the eye-opening and thought-provoking Riverside Sustainability Awareness Program training at Stonewall Resort. Right, Doug Arbogast, of Travel Green Appalachia, a workshop course used by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to better prepare communities for the future.

The RSAP Training introduces participants to the Triple Bottom Line of Sustainability (people, profits, planet) and to the economic, social and environmental impacts of the human species on the planet. It also presents the Nine Opportunities for Sustainability (see chart, page 13) as potential solutions to those impacts.

"The RSAP Training is designed to challenge people to think 'green' in their communities, personal lives and daily business activities with the goals of using resources more efficiently, creating a safer work environment and reducing the amount of mate-



Above, participants go through an interactive exercise during the Riverside Sustainability Awareness Program training at Stonewall Resort. Right, Doug Arbogast, of Travel Green Appalachia, talks about the Triple Bottom Line of Sustainability during RSAP training at the DEP headquarters.

rials added to the waste stream," said Matt Earnest, executive director of the Office of Workforce Development at the Bridgemont Community and Technical College in Montgomery.

Earnest and Doug Arbogast, of Travel Green Appalachia, often work together in presenting RSAP Training sessions.

Since January, the DEP has sponsored a handful of the sessions, including one in late May at DEP headquarters for the Charleston Area Alliance and its clients. The Charleston Area Alliance is a non-



profit community and economic development organization.

Another RSAP Training course was offered in June at the Stonewall Resort in connection with the DEP's West Virginia Sustainable Communities project, now in its fifth year.

"When you go through this training, you realize you don't know everything you need to know," said Greg Adolfson, the DEP's sustainability officer. "I don't think there is anyone who attends

this training who doesn't learn something new."

Susie Salisbury, senior vice president for the Charleston Area Alliance, said the training was beneficial in that it made participants think about what they can do today to improve their imprint on the community and the environment.

"Every single person in the room could walk away and at least think before they bought a

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TRAINING

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bottle of Windex off the shelf," she said. "The training offered kind of a big, world view, and then it worked its way to what you can do now."

"We've been trying to focus on a variety of sustainability projects, training and outreach. We thought it would be fantastic to provide some hands-on training."

Amy Lewis, of the Charleston-Kanawha Housing Authority, which provides low-income housing in the Charleston area, said her agency is striving to make all of its homes energy efficient.

"We're trying to find out how we can take this into our housing developments," said Lewis, who attended May's training session. "That's why we're here."

The RSAP Training at Stonewall Resort was by invitation only and included members of the West Virginia Community Development Hub and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation.

The Community Development Hub is a non-profit corporation that connects state communities with programs, training, technical assistance, coaching, assessment and evaluation in an effort to improve their quality of life.

The Benedum Foundation is a charitable organization that makes grants in West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania in the areas of education, economic de-

velopment, civic engagement, health and human services and community development.

The DEP has partnered with the Community Development Hub and the Benedum Foundation to identify 21 communities in the state as potential West Virginia Sustainable Communities.

The primary focus of WVSC is resource conservation, solid waste reduction, pollution prevention and sustainability concepts and principles to build sustainable communities with proven financial rewards.

The RSAP Training is one of the first rungs on the ladder in Adolfson's step-by-step process in developing WVSC statewide. Adolfson hopes to produce a plan to formally introduce the RSAP Training as part of the Community Development Hub.

Herk Conner, program

coordinator for the Hub, said incorporating sustainable principles into the Hub's mission makes sense.

"I personally think, and I think there are a lot of folks at the Hub who would understand, that there is a chunk of economic development there," he said. "I think it's a very serious and viable option for communities to get involved in this."

LaReta Lowther, a member of Shinnston's Blueprint Community team, said her town would like to become the pilot program for the WVSC project.

Lowther and other Shinnston officials attended the RSAP Training at Stonewall.

"We're going to be a bedroom community," Lowther said. "We're 15 minutes from the FBI and 15 minutes from the new hospital. We're going to be

a place where people want to live. So where do they want to live? They want to live in a sustainable community that's green, that's healthy and where they're comfortable with the air."

"We're not going to be an industry hub. We know what we have to be. We just need help getting there."

"We want someone to come in and do an air quality check and to tell our citizens your air is fine. They'll listen to someone else."

By October, Adolfson hopes to launch a WVSC pilot demonstration with one or more of the 21 communities identified.

"We'll look at the most progressive communities which are ready for this and they'll become a West Virginia Sustainable Community," Adolfson said. "They'll go through this (RSAP) training. We'll work with them to develop a long-term strategy."

"One good thing about sustainability training is it's going to build and develop leaders at local levels to step up to the plate and take these Nine Opportunities for Sustainability in the form of sustainability champions. They are people who will represent each of the nine steps."

"Our goal is to have those nine people working together on ways to solve problems around those issues."

"We need local leaders who are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work."

The Nine Opportunities of Sustainability

1. Eliminate waste — of all kinds.
2. Go non-toxic — supply chain, our process, emissions and products.
3. Fight global warming — reduce our carbon footprint.
4. Reduce, reuse, recycle, redesign — mimic nature.
5. Make transportation efficient — move less stuff over shorter distances.
6. Get healthy — practice personal sustainability.
7. Add value to our community — give something back, it's a two-way street.
8. Engage others — spread the word and listen.
9. Challenge the future — rethink how we can create value.

Corporate Cup schedule

**Saturday, July 11**

8 a.m. — Wells Fargo softball tournament. 8 a.m. — City of Charleston horseshoe tournament.

Sunday, July 12

Noon — Wells Fargo softball tournament.

Monday, July 13

7:30 p.m. — Rose's darts tournament.

Tuesday, July 14

5:30 p.m. — Venture Lanes bowling.

Wednesday, July 15

5:30 p.m. — Schultzie's billiards.

Thursday, July 16

8 p.m. — CAMC putt putt.

Saturday, July 18

8 a.m. — Dixon Hughes volleyball tournament.

Sunday, July 19

9 a.m. — YMCA tennis tournament.

Tuesday, July 21

5:30 p.m. — Energy Corporation of America Hoop Shoot.

Wednesday, July 22

5:30 p.m. — Lanyi Closest to the Pin. 5:30 p.m. — Table tennis tournament.

Thursday, July 23

7 p.m. — Combined age swimming relay.

7:45 p.m. — Medley swim relay.

Saturday, July 25

8:30 a.m. — Track and field. 11 a.m. — Punt, pass and kick. 1 p.m. — V100 Obstacle course. 3:30 p.m. — Tug of war. 6 p.m. — Awards.



Ohio River Sweep

Volunteers across West Virginia participated in the 2009 Ohio River Sweep on June 20.

The DEP's REAP program organized West Virginia's side of the litter cleanup, which was sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). At right, volunteers board the Island Belle for a trip over to Blennerhassett Island.



Workshop focuses on 'green' building

A workshop entitled "Putting Green Building Concepts to Work for You" is set for Aug. 5 at the Judge Black Annex in Parkersburg.

The workshop will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is being sponsored in part by the West Virginia DEP.

Topics to be covered include the fundamentals and benefits of sustainable design specifically geared to West Virginia, and employing sustainable design principles.

Participants will take what they learn in the first half of the work-

shop and apply their new knowledge to a real renovation project at the former W.T. Grant building on Market Street.

Participants will tour the building and then take part in a sustainable design charrette, or brainstorming session, using the LEED Green Building Rating System as a guide.

The workshop is free, but pre-registration is required by July 24. For more information go to the DEP registration page at: www.wvdep.org/registration.

EMS training can help businesses

Businesses and other organizations in the state can learn more about "going green" and other ways to improve their environmental performance during a two-day Environmental Management System workshop at the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Charleston headquarters.

The workshop, scheduled Aug. 18-19, is sponsored in part by the DEP.

The first part of the workshop will introduce the Riverside

Sustainability Awareness Program Training and the concepts of sustainability.

The remainder of the workshop will focus on an Environmental Management System, a framework that helps a company achieve its environmental goals through control of its operations and environmental impacts.

Registration is free and the deadline to register is Friday, Aug. 7.

To register, go to: www.wvdep.org/registration.