



# Environmental Awards



Joe Manchin III,  
Governor

Randy C. Huffman,  
DEP Cabinet Secretary



west virginia department of environmental protection

## CONGRATULATIONS

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Awards recognize the accomplishments of state industries, municipalities, educators and community leaders who strive to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors, and educate the state's citizens.

The DEP's mission is to promote a healthy environment. These awards are being presented to those who share our mission and practice environmental stewardship.

Eligibility for the industrial awards includes exemplary environmental performance in the last two calendar years, a history that shows no outstanding violations and a record of compliance with regulatory authorities. Facilities were nominated by the environmental inspectors who work to ensure their compliance with the law and by other DEP personnel who work with volunteer efforts.

## UST MOST IMPROVED

### **Terra-Petro Development Inc. — CC Marts**

Beaver, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Rindy Clayton

Following an over-fill event in 2002, one of Terra-Petro's owners, John Stroud, and maintenance supervisor, Chuck Lester, had a rough but enlightening introduction to the world of underground storage tanks (USTs). Both Stroud and Lester responded promptly and worked diligently in the week following the over-fill to install missing leak detection and overflow equipment. They rapidly came into compliance with UST federal regulations and state rules. From that point, Lester took on a proactive attitude toward maintenance and upkeep, always on the lookout for a way to improve. He established excellent communications with his UST inspector, expressing concerns, asking for help and advice, and even asking to be inspected ahead of schedule to ensure everything was compliant. Instead of fearing an inspection, he embraced it as way to make things better.

## UST CLASS A CERTIFIED WORKER

### **Dennis Huff — Sam Huff Contractors Inc.**

Ona, W.Va.

DEP Sponsors: Denise Hight and Michael Young

Huff is always willing to share his extensive knowledge and go beyond his normal job function to help. He has taken time to come to inspections, while assisting with gathering technical data if the inspector was having difficulty with a piece of equipment. He has extensive experience in installing, repairing and upgrading UST systems. When assisting with UST inspections, he makes what could be a difficult and demanding profession more interesting, and a whole lot more fun.

## UST CLASS B CERTIFIED WORKER

### **Michael A. Miller — Miller Environmental Inc.**

Morgantown, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Ted Wisner

Michael Miller started Miller Environmental Inc. in May 2002 after working for several environmental companies. Miller performs all aspects of tank removal activities from operating the excavator, pumping liquids, venting, entering the tank for cleaning and sampling. He knows and understands all the state and federal regulations regarding tank removal and does not deviate from the rules. He makes the DEP inspectors' jobs easier by calling ahead, keeping the inspectors informed of any extraneous circumstances, working safely and always supporting the agency.

## UST CLASS C CERTIFIED WORKER

### **Edward Kubinsky Jr. — Crompco LLC.**

Plymouth Meeting, Pa. (West Virginia Sites)

DEP Sponsor: Patty Hickman

Edward Kubinsky is diligent in ensuring that the testing he and others from his company performs meets the requirements of the test method providers, as well as state and federal regulations. In addition to meeting requirements, he keeps the DEP informed of any changes and updates to his and the other Crompco workers' testing methods and training. He also provides the DEP information regarding new test methods available, and has demonstrated new methods in the field, allowing the UST Unit to more readily determine whether such testing methods meet regulatory requirements. He works to ensure that he and all the Crompco certified workers have the required training to remain current with their DEP certifications.

## UST CLASS D CERTIFIED WORKER

### **Phillip Stone— Superior Testing Services Inc.**

Hendersonville, N.C. (West Virginia Sites)

DEP Sponsor: Patty Hickman

Phillip Stone consistently ensures that cathodic protection systems meet all state and federal regulations, while working on behalf of the UST owners to achieve compliance in the most cost-effective manner. Stone has worked with the DEP's UST Unit on some special compliance situations that required thorough evaluation of cathodic protection systems and thinking outside the box on ways to achieve regulatory compliance. By taking the time to thoroughly review these systems and to discuss all options on what could be done to keep them in operation, this allowed the owners to continue to safely operate existing UST systems, while still protecting human health and the environment.

## UST CLASS E CERTIFIED WORKER

### **Robert Howie — RHCP Services**

Waxhaw, N.C. (West Virginia Sites)

DEP Sponsor: Rindy Clayton

During the late 1980's and the early 1990's, Howie became involved with USTs with regard to CP compliance with EPA regulations. In January 2003, he became a NACE-certified senior corrosion technologist, which is equivalent to CP level-3. Howie refuses to compromise his work standards by putting profits over ethics.

## UST

### **Holtzman Oil Company**

Mount Jackson, Va.

DEP Sponsor: Eric Mauzy

All of the Holtzman Oil sites go above and beyond on compliance. Everything is electronic, including line tests. They also use sump sensors in all STP sumps and dispenser

pans. In addition, they place fire extinguishers in all their new dispensers. Holtzman's Environmental Manager, Mike Baker, has been very helpful to the DEP, especially on INCON issues, even if it is not his facility.

## UST

### **Prima Marketing – Prima Stores** Denver, CO (West Virginia Locations)

DEP Sponsor: Patty Rodgers-Perrine

Prima's compliance program was developed when the company formed in 1998. Prima began operating convenience stores with underground storage tanks in West Virginia in 1998 and currently has 87 stores nationwide, with 72 in West Virginia. Among the reasons Prima's compliance program is successful is its compliance team has the full support from top management and reports directly to the CEO; compliance manuals and documents are kept at the store and at maintenance headquarters; the equipment is tested on time and by quality companies; and environmental compliance is part of Prima's culture and more of a state of mind than a task to be performed.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE CORRECTIVE ACTION

### **Private Trucking Operations** **Union Carbide Corporation — Dow Chemical** Charleston, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Chris Gatens

The Union Carbide Corp. has achieved 100 percent regulatory compliance over the last 20 years. UCC's approach is driven through the use of dedicated, conscientious and well-trained personnel, ongoing monitoring, and corrective actions, including proactive interaction with the DEP and the EPA. UCC strives to maintain a collaborative relationship with the DEP and EPA through regular communication, voluntarily maintaining an aggressive schedule for corrective action, and a proactive approach to compliance which, as a result, has benefitted all stakeholders. UCC initiated activities to address groundwater over 20 years ago and continues to aggressively implement actions in this manner.

## INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

### **Cytec Industries Inc. — Willow Island** Beverly, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Robert Keatley

Cytec is a global specialty chemicals and materials company, manufacturing products that serve a diverse range of end markets. Cytec maintains full certification to RC 14001® technical specification/ISO 14001 management standards. In order to more efficiently generate steam which is used to provide process heating, Cytec voluntarily undertook a project to remove from service three older coal-fired boilers and replace them with two state-of-the-art natural gas/distillate oil boilers. Most recently, Cytec has voluntarily added a new sub-process to recover and reuse a key raw material for the Urethanes process and has voluntarily employed recovery equipment and processes to recover and reuse key raw materials in its manufacturing operations for many years.

## INDUSTRY LESS THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

### **C/O Consolidated Hydro Southeast Inc. — Gauley River Power Partners**

Piedmont, S.C./Summersville W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Kevin Lilly

The 80-megawatt Summersville Hydroelectric Project near Summersville, W.Va., went into commercial operation on July 30, 2001. The Summersville Project (sometimes known as the “Gauley River Project”) demonstrated the future possibilities of installing low-cost hydropower at existing dams in the United States. The Summersville Project confers a number of benefits: more than 200 million megawatt-hours per year of clean energy, enhanced recreational opportunities for river users, and a source of revenue for the city and the federal government. It further illustrates both the challenges and the promise of hydropower as a non-polluting contributor to the nation’s energy mix. This project has consistently shown the intent to go above and beyond the requirements of current laws, regulations and permits with regard to protecting the quality of state waters. The result is an excellent example of an electrical generation facility that operates in a manner that has virtually no detrimental effects on the local environment.

## MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

### **S&S Landfill**

Clarksburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Stan Wolfe

S&S Landfill is an existing solid waste disposal facility that has been in operation since the 1980s. It follows strict guidelines of a spill prevention control and countermeasures plan and storm water pollution prevention plan onsite, as well as best management practices for both plans. The site conducts daily, monthly, quarterly and annual site inspections on capped waste areas, intermediate covered waste areas, storm water ditches, petroleum tanks and the active working face of the landfill. The landfill has monthly and annual environmental training to educate and inform its employees. S&S has not received a notice of violation for any reason in more than seven years.

## MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

### **Greenbrier County Landfill**

Lewisburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Susan Kershner

The Greenbrier County Landfill is a Class B landfill that receives waste from Greenbrier, Monroe, Summers, Nicholas, Fayette and Pocahontas counties. When the Greenbrier SWA assumed the facility, funding was inadequate, leachate was discharging into state waters directly above the intake for the Lewisburg water treatment plant, cover on the refuse was inadequate and heavy erosion was occurring on the old unlined fill area. Over the years, the Greenbrier SWA has managed to correct these problems and move the facility within compliance of state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS

### **Armstrong Hardwood Flooring – Beverly Plant**

Beverly, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Joyce Moore

In the area of spill prevention/containment improvement, the Beverly facility installed a 55-gallon drum rotator spill containment; reduced boiler chemical storage and installed double-wall dispensing tanks; and installed additional coatings storage room with containment system integrated. In waste reduction, the facility installed a solvent recovery unit and initiated drum return strategy for petroleum products to the originator. It also recycled 1,440 pounds of aluminum, 28,680 pounds of steel, 18,550 pounds of office paper, 154,880 pounds of cardboard and 37,000 pounds of plastic banding.

## SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD, MOST IMPROVED

### **Warm Springs PSD — Berkeley Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Sarah Woody

The Warm Springs PSD began upgrading the Berkeley Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant in April 2007. The only remnant of the original 1979 plant was the control/lab building. The new plant can handle almost six times the peak flows as the original plant. This has eliminated sanitary sewer overflows due to wet weather conditions. The new head works, consisting of fine screening and grit/grease removal, has greatly improved the ability to remove untreatable material from the waste stream. A Schreiber counter current-activated sludge process is able to remove suspended solids and biological oxygen demand to a level below the lab's detection limits. The new plant is also producing an effluent with total nitrogen levels well below the anticipated Chesapeake Bay standard of 5 mg/l. The ultraviolet disinfection system consistently destroys virtually all the fecal coliform. The use of chlorine, along with its potentially harmful byproducts, has been eliminated.

## SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD, MOST IMPROVED

### **Red Sulphur PSD — Red Sulphur PSD Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Peterstown, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Susan Kershner

The Red Sulphur District has invested heavily in upgrades the past three years. It has built a new 0.75 MGD plant and installed approximately 13 miles of new collection lines and three lift stations. The new lines replaced lines that were contributing heavy inflow and infiltration, added 250 new customers, eliminated a package plant and eliminated two sanitary sewer overflows. Total investment in these projects was approximately \$13 million. The district has taken a strong proactive approach to improve water quality and serving the community's needs.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD,  
MOST IMPROVED

**Parkersburg Utility Board**

Parkersburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: John King

A recent \$52 million upgrade greatly enhanced the Parkersburg Utility Board's ability to produce an effluent discharge well below permit limits, which ultimately benefits water quality in the Ohio River. Line extensions allowed homeowners to tie into the PUB system, which reduced septic system failures, and upgrades to the facility limit odor issues. Other recent upgrades include the Allen-Bradley computer system and construction of an activated sludge basin. The computer system monitors the facility and collection system 24 hours a day and instantly notifies the PUB when a problem arises. The facility has had no major violations over the past several years and the PUB addresses deficiencies in a timely manner.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD

**Greenbrier PSD No. 2 — Greenbrier PSD No. 2 Wastewater  
Treatment Plant**

Rainelle, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Susan Kershner

The Greenbrier Public Service District No. 2 operates a 1.3 MGD wastewater treatment plant that serves western Greenbrier County. The PSD collection lines encompass 109 miles with 11 lift stations. The PSD also operates the water plant that serves the community of Quinwood and environs. The PSD has acquired the equipment necessary to maintain the lines and has assisted other communities with its camera equipment. It is consistently within regulatory limits, is meticulous with its operations and maintenance and is always willing to assist other facilities.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD

**Crab Orchard MacArthur PSD**

Crab Orchard, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Larry Robertson

The Crab Orchard-MacArthur Public Service District has been extraordinarily active in extending sewer service throughout southwestern Raleigh County, and will continue to do so in 2010. It provides sewer service to more than 4,200 customers in Raleigh County. The PSD currently owns and operates 360,000 LF of gravity sewers, 39 pumping stations and approximately 100 simplex grinder pumping stations. In addition to the MGD Fitzpatrick Park plant, the PSD owns and operates package treatment plants in four areas, and operates several additional package plants for the Raleigh County Board of Education and the Raleigh County Recreation Authority, as well as several private facilities.

## SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT LESS THAN 400,000 GPD

### **Harpers Ferry/Bolivar PSD**

Harpers Ferry, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Michael Kanehl

The Harpers Ferry/Bolivar PSD was established in 1978 to serve their communities with sewer service. Before then, all of the residents had septic tanks, and a lot of the homes ran their kitchen and wash water to the streets. The plant is still in its original state from 30 years ago. It has continued to produce a quality effluent, with a minimal number of excursions. The plant serves 762 residential customers with the National Park Service and the Hill Top Hotel being the biggest customers. It was the first in the state to receive the new BNR requirement permit for TN and TP sampling. With age, there are challenges that can make day-to-day operations a chore. All operational and process control changes must be done by hand and elbow grease. Existing lines are repaired and replaced on the fly. Two operations staff personnel are on-call 24-7 to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant and collection systems.

## SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT LESS THAN 400,000 GPD

### **Town of Capon Bridge**

#### **Capon Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Capon Bridge, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Rhod Mills

Serving 169 customers, the Capon Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to bring a much-needed service to the Town of Capon Bridge, through which the Cacapon River flows. The Cacapon River is one of Hampshire County's natural treasures and is known for its fishing, boating, wildlife and scenery. The Capon Bridge Wastewater Treatment facility strives for optimum operation as the treated effluent flows into the pristine Cacapon River. Before the facility was up and running, there was no publicly owned wastewater treatment plant in the area. Most of the homes, businesses and institutions relied on on-site septic systems and either leach fields or direct discharges into the Cacapon River. The Capon Bridge Wastewater Treatment Plant is always above and beyond compliance.

## LAND USE DEVELOPMENT

### **Kanawha Electric & Machine Co.**

Charleston, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: David Hight

In 2007, Kanawha Electric & Machine Co. secured the purchase of 7.5 acres of property located at the entrance to Campbell's Creek Drive just off the Belle exit and began construction of a new state-of-the-art EASA repair facility. This new service center is the result of over two years of due diligence, research and study for developing a formally remediated Brownfield site. The redevelopment required a number of innovative construction techniques. Great efforts were made to maintain the integrity of environmental seals and minimize the potential for exposure to possible leftover contaminants from the remediation. Ultimately, the redevelopment upgraded an obsolete facility, placed it back on the tax rolls, increased the property value and allowed for the creation of 45-60 new jobs for the community.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### **Barry Milam — Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association**

MacArthur, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Jennifer DuPree

Barry Milam has been a valuable asset to the DEP's non-point source program and the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Association's (UGWA) Wastewater Project committee. Milam is the general manager of the Crab Orchard MacArthur PSD. He is an active member of this committee whose goal is to reduce non-point source impacts from failing septic systems and straight pipes. The Wastewater Project committee member agencies and organizations participate in monthly meetings that are organized and chaired by the UGWA. The committee has served as a steering committee throughout the development of the watershed-based plan and continues to work on project implementation. Milam is a liaison between UGWA and Crab Orchard McArthur PSD (COMA) and has orchestrated important resources to the implementation of wastewater projects. He has been instrumental as the manager of COMA by providing heavy equipment and the operators to dig soil pits and determine the feasibility of wastewater treatment systems for both Ury and Amigo. Milam helped to organize a decentralized wastewater treatment workshop to discuss appropriate treatment technologies for Upper Guyandotte communities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### **Kanawha County Commission**

Charleston, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Richard Hackney

The Kanawha County Commission realizes the importance of preserving and protecting West Virginia's environment. The commission is involved in several projects, such as the annual county cleanups that have a direct and positive impact on environmental conditions throughout the county and the state.

In fall 2008 and spring 2009 cleanups, the county collected 3,196,510 pounds of trash and debris; 622,012 pounds of recycled metals; 27,000 pounds of recycled plastics; and 11,045 tires. It also cleaned up five open dumps and the Kanawha County Planning Office issued code violations letters under the Kanawha County Public Nuisance Ordinance to 339 county property owners for trash and debris. The Kanawha County Planning Office also issued tickets to 102 county property owners for failure to remove trash and debris from property and submitted to Kanawha County Magistrate Court 15 cases for hearings.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

### **Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority**

Beckley, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Larry Robertson

Since the West Virginia Legislature created county Solid Waste Authorities in 1989, the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority has slowly and methodically implemented its plan to convert a primitive landfill into one of the region's finest integrated solid waste facilities.

Its first priority was to convert its operation from simply a landfill into a modern, lined facility that would be in compliance with all state and federal guidelines. It is in the final stages of completing the process to increase its permitted area to 80 acres and has planned for the future by acquiring additional surrounding property. Its second priority was to establish an education program to teach about being good stewards to our environment. Its third priority was to establish a full-time litter control crew. Its next priority was to build a modern regional recycling facility. This was completed in late 2004. A final goal of having a law enforcement officer was accomplished in mid 2004. Future plans call for the creation of recreation facilities to be constructed on closed and reclaimed landfill areas. The possibility of utilizing the methane gas created in landfills to light the recreation area for nighttime use is being studied.

## BROWNFIELDS AND VOLUNTARY PROGRAM

### **City of Parkersburg Bureau of Public Debt (former CSX depot)**

Parkersburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Don Martin

Historically, the site had been primarily utilized for industrial purposes, although a portion of the site was used as residential property. After about 1910, B&O Railroad, and CSX Transportation as its successor, used the site as a freight depot until the 1970's. The site was acquired by The City of Parkersburg in 1999. To facilitate redevelopment, the city entered the site into the West Virginia Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act (VRRRA) program, and assessed and cleaned up the property to the appropriate standards. The clean-up resulted in the city and Urban Renewal Authority receiving a Certificate of Completion, which allowed the site to be redeveloped as the new U.S. Bureau of Public Debt facility. The state-of-the-art, five-story office complex constructed on the former coal gasification plant and railroad depot site now houses approximately 600 employees.

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### **Melissa Stewart West Virginia State University Extension Services**

Institute, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Rose Long

Wheeler-Stewart is a committed and creative extension agent who challenges the education community not just to teach about the environment, but to also engage students through a variety of hands-on learning experiences, ranging from gardening and water quality monitoring to the exploration of wetlands. Her ability to inspire educators and advance environmental awareness is evidenced by annual training seminars she organizes in cooperation with various environmental programs, including Project WET. The three-day events offer classroom teachers, master gardeners, 4-H leaders, or anyone interested in environmental and youth agricultural education, the opportunity to learn about a variety of environmental issues as an integrated concept. Wheeler-Stewart is a leader who has demonstrated unfailing commitment to the environment and its role and value in people's lives.

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### **Bob Bennett — Greenbrier County Solid Waste Authority Greenbrier Recycling Center**

Ronceverte, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Susan Kershner

The Greenbrier Solid Waste Authority has had a recycling program since the late 1980's. Through the years, it has expanded to meet the needs of the community. In 2007, it moved its operations to its own building in Ronceverte. Since then, it has invested heavily in equipment and personnel to handle the rising demand for services. All operations at this location are under roof, maintained well and thus don't cause water pollution from storm water events. The recycling center currently is participating in e-cycling and also receives and processes the recycling materials from Pocahontas and Summers counties. It brings school children to the landfill and recycling center to educate them on where their garbage goes and the need to recycle and dispose of solid waste responsibly. Educational materials are distributed to the teachers for use in the classroom.

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### **Amanda Sullivan WV. Department of Agriculture**

Moorefield, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Rose Long

Amanda Sullivan is an environmental specialist with the Department of Agriculture. She is also a Project WET facilitator who uses her education, talent and enthusiasm to inform teachers about the connection between soil nutrients and water quality. In 2009, she conducted a Project WET workshop at Shepherd College for students attending science methods classes. Also in 2009, she included Project WET teacher training in a two-day event focused on the Chesapeake Bay. In the works for 2010, is an educators' workshop to be conducted in cooperation with the Regional Education Service Agency that serves eight counties in the Eastern Panhandle. Sullivan espouses the philosophy that sustainability of soil and water relies on the many individual choices, and that educators have an important responsibility to provide the information necessary to enable future generations to make those choices. Her work will undoubtedly help bring agricultural practices in harmony with the water environment.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

### **Abby Chapple Friends of the Cacapon River**

Largent, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Ginny DiFrancesco

Not long after moving within view of the Cacapon River, Chapple became a member of the local watershed group, Friends of the Cacapon River (FCR), a group of mostly non-residents owning homes along the river. The FCR had aspirations of serving as a resource to landowners and neighboring communities on issues affecting the watershed. At that time, there were approximately 10 members. In 1999, Chapple became president of the FCR and led volun-

teers, who were concerned with the water quality of the river, to organize and establish a bona fide association. Membership increased to more than 80 and the mailing list to more than 700. The all-volunteer association participates in river projects, including Make it Shine and Adopt-a-Highway cleanups, provides educational information at local festivals and monitors water quality and fish health through Save Our Streams. Chapple has stepped down and Ron Wilson is currently president of the FCR. However, Chapple continues as an active member. She is currently chairman of the state RC&D Council, and was recently nominated for chairman of the Potomac Headwaters RC& D Council.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

### **Patricia Spangler**

Fayetteville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Phyllis Farley

Spangler spearheaded the recycling programs in the Fayette County schools. Because of her determined efforts to find funding, 15 public schools and one private school now participate in the program. She visits the schools and looks for funding. She applied for and received a grant of \$1,500 from the West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board to continue publicizing the program and to produce a school recycling handbook. She applied for and received a \$5,000 grant from Alliance of West Virginia to develop, design and produce an educational DVD to promote the importance of the schools' recycling efforts. The DVD has been distributed to all Fayette County Schools and shared with other counties that want to implement their own programs.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

### **Teresa Nelson**

Marlinton, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Theodora Plumley

Teresa Nelson focuses on environmental and community-based ventures as leader of the Beaver Creek Beavers 4-H Club. There are approximately 40 club members living near Watoga State Park who are enrolled in the Youth Environmental Program. She has led this group of young people in community projects such as Adopt-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Spot programs, Make It Shine annual litter cleanups, recycling drives and trail building and maintenance at the park. Through her guidance, the club has won several Youth Environmental Program awards for its hard work and dedication to making its community and park a cleaner and more beautiful place to live and visit. Nelson supports the club members attending Youth Environmental Day, Junior Conservation Camp, State Conservation Camp and the Youth Environmental Conference. She also applied for and received a \$3,000 grant on behalf of the club to promote non-use of tobacco products with teens.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

### **Brenda Miller**

Barrackville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Brad Blaine

For several years, Miller has been the adult leader of her home county's Busy Bison 4-H Club. She has encouraged many significant conservation efforts through involvement with her 4-H youth, her fellow workers and family. Miller has focused on West Virginia's landscape in its entirety — from its people and culture to its soils and minerals, forests, water and wildlife. Miller nurtures the idea that anything is possible, especially with West Virginia's next generation. Indeed, as the diversity and complexity of environmental obstacles mount in West Virginia, she has collaborated with others to effectively respond at multiple levels. We can learn much from Miller's character — collaboration with others, dedication to a cause, motivating others and believing that anything is possible when people work together.

## ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

### **Eric Autenreith**

#### **Plateau Action Network**

Fayetteville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Jennifer DuPree

In 1997, a group of concerned citizens decided to hold a meeting to address the effects of proposed power lines that would have impacted a scenic area on the Meadow River. One hundred people came to the meeting and provided the seed support for the birth of the Plateau Action Network (PAN). The "Meadow River... Like it is!" project first centralized the community efforts into what is now PAN. PAN has been involved in a variety of projects and issues related to watersheds and the communities within them. PAN won watershed association of the year in 2007 at Watershed Celebration Day from the WV Watershed Network. Autenreith is a PAN board member. He volunteers to do stream cleanups and mans the booth for various events such as Earth Day etc. He worked with the County Planning Commission to implement a viewshed ordinance for the New River Gorge. The adoption of this viewshed ordinance is directed to protect the New River Gorge from poorly planned development. He is a strong representative of PAN; respectful, thoughtful yet fearless in his drive to serve the organization in best balancing nature and commerce in and around the New River Gorge for generations to come.

## SAFE DAMS AWARD

### **Civil Tech Engineering Inc. — Mark Pennington**

Hurricane, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Brian Long

Mark Pennington has been active in dam safety issues for about 25 years. Starting as an engineer for Triad Engineering, Pennington completed many dam-related designs for construction and was involved in rehabilitating existing dams. After launching Civil Tech Engineering, he continued with engineering design, construction inspection, monitoring plan development, and the inspection of existing dams. He is a student of current dam

safety practices and strives to provide the spirit and content of DEP rule requirements that result in increased public safety through quality design and construction of dams. Pennington is dedicated to the Engineer's Creed. Several of the notable projects completed by Pennington during his career include Stony River Dam, Mt. Storm Dam flip bucket, Thomas Dam, Warden Lake Dam, Belington Dam, Deegan/Hinkle dams, Burch Run Dam, Teter Creek Dam, Mill Run Dam, Seneca Lake Dam, and Anawalt Lake Dam.

### CLEAN ENERGY AWARD

#### **Coaltec Energy/Frye Poultry**

Wardensville, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Gene Coccaro

The Frye Poultry project is a gasification showcase that draws concerned agriculturalists, environmentalists and animal producers from throughout the world, who are interested in manure gasification and the beneficial ash byproduct, biochar. Located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the project demonstrates the potential to eliminate the spread of raw manure; energy efficiency, as the heat supplied by the gasifier supplants the use of costly propane; and prevention of nutrient overloading as fertilizer requirements are significantly reduced when the biochar is land-applied. Depending on the soil, greater crop yields can be a huge additional side benefit.

### OUTSTANDING LITTER CONTROL OFFICER

#### **Jimmy M. Stone — Raleigh County**

Beckley, W. Va.

DEP Sponsor: Larry Robertson

Hired in 2004, Stone has literally impressed upon hundreds of Raleigh County residents the importance of complying with the litter and solid waste laws through his issuance of hundreds of warnings and citations. He approaches his job as a professional law enforcement officer, trained by his previous career as a Raleigh County deputy sheriff. Stone has no problem with sifting through an illegal dump or litter to find names; knocking on doors, interviewing suspects, witnesses and complainants; running license plate numbers; or obtaining information from other law enforcement agencies, to find the litter culprits and trash dumpers. As a result of Stone's initiative, professionalism, determination, experience and knowledge, he has made Raleigh County environmentally better with far less litter and more beautiful.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

#### **West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers Marshall University and West Virginia University**

Huntington, W.Va.; Morgantown, W.Va.

DEP Sponsors: Ken Ellison and Don Martin

In 2005, the State Legislature recognized the lost economic and social value in abandoned and underutilized contaminated lands or "Brownfields." Many small communities don't have the resources to undertake Brownfield development. The West Virginia Brownfields

Assistance Centers at Marshall and WVU were created to support community efforts and work with the DEP and the WV Development Office to turn these Brownfields into productive land again. The assistance centers provide training and technical assistance on Brownfield development, grant writing, site assessment and remediation; administer and secure federal Brownfield funds and assistance programs; and provide education and information on Brownfield development in the state.

## DEP CABINET SECRETARY AWARD

### **Elk River Cleanup**

Strange Creek, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Kevin Lilly

During the past several years, a local volunteer group in Braxton County has devoted countless hours toward the removal of solid waste from the Elk River. This project was named the Elk River Cleanup by the organizers and encompasses a 29-mile stretch of river beginning at the Sutton Dam and extending downstream to the Clay County line. The primary individuals responsible for this project were Braxton County High School senior Lauren Spencer in the summer of 2006; her brother, Matt Spencer, a Braxton County High School senior in the summer of 2007; and their grandmother, Mrs. Nancy Spencer. Many others in the Spencer family, and many local volunteers also contributed significant amounts of time and effort toward the success of this project.

Numerous local entities have contributed financially or donated services to this project, including businesses, industries, government, civic organizations and private individuals. The DEP-REAP program contributed man hours and coordinated the transportation and disposal of the solid waste that was removed from the river.

The volunteer aspect of this project is the cornerstone that supports it. Volunteers are the major reason the project has succeeded. In 2006, a total of 55 individuals participated, in 2007 there were 53 and in 2008 there were 50-plus individuals. Not all of the volunteers involved actually participated in the hands-on recovery of solid waste. However, the contributions by these other volunteers, who acted as support staff, were just as important for the success of the project.

The results of the Elk River Cleanup project have been impressive. In 2006 there were a total 2,300 tires removed from this stretch of the Elk. There was also a total of 43 tons of other solid waste removed and properly disposed of. In 2007 a total of 2,213 tires were recovered. During that same year there were 6.92 tons of metal recovered, which was then recycled, and 9.87 tons of other solid waste recovered and properly disposed of. In 2008 a total of 1,500 tires were recovered, along with 8 tons of other solid waste recovered and properly disposed of. The solid waste removed from this river during the total 15-day period spanning the three summers totaled an impressive 6,000 tires, and 68 tons of other solid waste. If the weight of the tires is added to the tonnage of other solid waste recovered, the total tonnage of solid waste removed from this 29-mile stretch of the Elk River exceeds 130 tons. This result was accomplished primarily due to the ideas and efforts of two Braxton County High School students and their family who wanted to make a difference in their community. Due to their past success and their current plan of continuing this project into future years, the river has benefited tremendously and will continue to do so. The Elk River Cleanup project could be a model for other communities across the state with similar aspirations, and therefore it is worthy of proper recognition by the DEP and State of West Virginia for a job well done.