

# ECHOS



...throughout West Virginia

From the Office of Environmental Health Services  
**Healthy People Through Healthy  
Environments in West Virginia**

**May 2002**

## What's New?

**The first task of the newsletter team was to hold a contest to pick a name for our paper. There were many entries, and the winning entry was submitted by Pam Smith, Accounting Tech III.**

### **New members of the OEHS team**

A number of new employees who have joined the OEHS team in the last quarter, please join us in welcoming them:

- LeaAnn Green
- Barbara Smith
- Milton Blijd
- Susan Cupit
- Bob Smith
- Dan Hill
- Christy Patchell
- Dawn Newell
- Rhonda Miller



### **OEHS Leadership Team**

We had the privilege of speaking with each of the four OEHS Leaders, and to get a dose of their knowledge.

### **Barb Taylor-Director of OEHS**

Interviewed by: Roger Green



Barb graduated from St. Albans High School, received her B.S. from WVU, and received her M.S. from Marshall University. She has worked for OEHS for a little more than two years. Her hobbies include gardening, and taking care of her pets; two horses, a goose, and a dog, Jake. When asked what she considered as her greatest accomplishment, she replied, "Having the opportunity to work with the great folks at OEHS and working in an area that is so important to the health of the citizens of West Virginia and our visitors." The thing she likes least about OEHS is there's not enough time to get everything done.

### **Randy Curtis-**

### **Director of RTIA**

Interviewed by: Scott Rodeheaver



Randy Curtis, P.E., began working in Bureau in 1978 as an Engineer in solid waste. Primary duties included oversight of field inspectors and permitting landfills. From 1982-1990 he was District Engineer in the Guthrie District(St. Albans) plus Logan and Mingo Counties. From 1990-1996, he worked for a local Environmental Consultant managing their Industrial Hygiene Division and Laboratory. The primary duties of RTIA are the implementation of three licensing programs: Asbestos professionals, Lead professionals, and Radon professionals. He resides in Cross Lanes, WV. He likes music, ham, radio, and NASCAR. His favorite driver is Mark Martin (#6), and he enjoys

camping. Randy doesn't have any pets; is happily married to his wife, Chris, has one grandson, Matthew, who shares Randy's birthday.

## **Ronald K. Forren- Director of PHS**

Interviewed by: Pam Smith

Ronald K. Forren, known by most as "Ron," and better known by



longtime OEHS friends as "Bubba," is the OEHS Division Director of Public Health Sanitation (PHS). Ron is a "born and bred" West Virginian. He spent his childhood in Fayette County and currently resided with his wife, Judy, in St. Albans. They are the parents of a daughter, Melissa, and grandparents to Trent and Luke. He enjoys a good football or baseball game on television and has recently joined the thousands of other West Virginians as a NASCAR fan. His favorite driver is Jeff Gordon (#24). From time to time he finds relaxation in fishing, and wishes time allowed him the opportunity to travel more. When asked about his dislikes, I sort of gathered that he didn't have many, so I got a little more specific and

asked him if there were any foods he didn't care for. Immediately he said "eggs." He said he didn't know why, he just didn't like eggs at all. His Favorite food is just about any Italian Meal . . . nothing specific . . . just so long as it's Italian. In his capacity as Division Director, he oversees the daily operations of PHS for OEHS. His Division employs eighteen people, some of which are sanitarians and based in each of the six District Offices throughout the state. He, with the aid of his division employees, works closely with each of West Virginia's fifty-five County Health Departments in seeing that sanitation issues and concerns are dealt with as well as assuring the public that state and federal sanitation guidelines are being followed. Finally, Ron shared with me one of the many bizarre stories he has been privy to while working at PHS. Here it is for your enjoyment. A lady brought in an unopened/uncapped bottle of 7-Up. It was the "old" 16-ounce kind of bottle that had the metal cap and required a "pop" opener to remove the cap. In that unopened/uncapped "see through" green bottle, he could see a piece of paper that had been put in the bottle prior to capping it at the bottling plant. The paper was an actual 7-Up advertisement from a magazine or newspaper that read, "there's quality in every bottle." I think I would pass on drinking that bottle.

## **Victor Wilford-**

## **Director of EED**

Interviewed by: Stacey Roe



Vic Wilford has worked for OEHS for more than 30 years. His basic duty is to provide overall directive for EED. "Work Hard-Play Hard" is his motto, and he does both. Vic loves to travel to various places with his wife. From the scenic panorama of our national parks, southwestern deserts, majestic mountains and rugged seashores, to the clear blue water of Hawaii. It sounds like you could bump into him anywhere! Some of their favorite places include Bavaria, Switzerland, the California and Oregon coastlines, New England, Columbia river Gorge, Yellowstone, Crater Lake NP's, Las Vegas, Annapolis, Sedona and San Francisco. He also enjoys yard work, and currently resides in Charleston, WV. One thing to note about Vic is that everything reminds him of a story. Looking around Vic's office, one will see many 30 year old treasures ranging from the green metal desk to the bottles of cloudy drinking water that were samples at some

point in the past. If it is old, Vic has it.



## Did you Know?

Submitted by: Fred Barley

Did you know you can find out what's happening around the state? Visit the web site <http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/calendar/> and plan your year with the state activity calendar. Having an in-service in your area? Contact Fred Barley [fredbarley@wvdhhr.org](mailto:fredbarley@wvdhhr.org) with the information and he will see that it is posted. Interested in events associated with the Environmental Training Center? Visit: <http://www.angelfire.com/wv/wvetc/ripley.htm>

## West Virginia Board of Registration for Sanitarian-

submitted by: Anita Ray



A new rule was submitted to the legislature rule-making review committee on August 29, 2000. Procedure for the Investigation and Resolution of Complaints, 20CSR2, was approved in accordance with 30-1-8[h]\*. This rule includes procedures for filing of complaints;

issuing a notice of hearing; investigation complaints; conducting hearings; the final disposition of complaints; penalties; and right of appeal. This was mandated by the revision of 30-1-8 in H.B.4062\* passed by the 2000 legislature. All comments that were submitted to the Board were reviewed and taken under consideration and some changes made before submitting to the Rule-making Review Committee. The effective date of this rule is February 1, 2001. Members of the Board are: Mike Eltzroth, Bill Harvey, Larry Lewis, Norman Moore, and Anita Ray.

## Got Milk??

submitted by: Phil Jones

Phil Jones reported that the milk sanitarian staff was involved in condemnation of **425,221 pounds** of raw milk due to an antibiotic residue during 2000. Three pasteurized milk product recalls were initiated due to high bacteria counts and sanitizers in the finished product. No mad cow disease was seen; just plenty of mad dairy farmers.

## PDF-What the heck is it?



display exactly as created, regardless of fonts, software, and

operating systems. Downloaded files cannot be modified by the user. PDF files always print correctly on any printing device. Anyone, anywhere can open a PDF file. All you need is the free Acrobat Reader. Central Office will make extensive use of PDF files on their web site by use of their scanner or with WordPerfect 9. PDF files are also much smaller, saving valuable space on the main server.

## -Food--

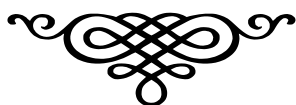
In our central office we have a video training kit, *Chinese Restaurant Food Safety*. The materials may be reproduced freely for educational purposes. Contact Linda Jones for more information.



## Sewage-

submitted by Phil Jones

Phil reports that permits for surface discharging HAU's were on the rise in 2000. Three hundred thirty-six HAU permits were issued by PHS. This is nearly double the 1999 total of 171 permits. HAU permit numbers in the years prior to DEP involvement generally exceeded 600.

Our  Fe

## Featured Division

### RTIA-

submitted by: Tony Turner

The Radiation, Toxics, and Indoor Air Division is responsible for the development, administration, and the implementation of an array of specialized state wide public health programs. The following is a list of those programs, the responsibilities and program contact for assistance and guidance.



#### **Asbestos Compliance:**

The asbestos program enforces the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), which monitors asbestos containing materials in schools (K-12). This program is also responsible for conducting investigations of asbestos complaints and abatement projects, processing project notifications, and inspecting asbestos projects. In addition, the staff provides technical assistance, public education and outreach.

#### **Certification and Licensing:**

This program oversees the certification, licensing and auditing of training providers for asbestos, lead and radon. In addition, the program is responsible for licensing all asbestos, lead and radon professionals and contractors.

#### **Lead Program:**

The Lead Program is responsible for conducting environmental lead assessments of housing and facilities where a child has been documented with elevated blood lead levels. This program is also responsible for the investigation of lead complaints, processing notifications for and inspection lead abatement projects. In addition, the staff of the Lead Program provides technical assistance and public education and outreach on lead issues.

#### **Indoor Air Program:**

The program staff investigates indoor air complaints in special settings, i.e., schools, public and private office buildings at the owners request. In addition, the IAQ staff provides technical assistance, public education and outreach on all indoor air issues.

#### **Radiological health:**

The staff of this program is responsible for the investigation of all radiation releases that may affect the state. This program also conducts routine inspections and certifies all medical X-ray and mammography equipment in the state. In addition, staff provides technical assistance, public education and outreach on radiological and radon issues.



## A Vision From Our Leaders

#### **Barb's Vision:**

When asked, "What is your vision for OEHS for this coming year and the next five years?" Barb Taylor replied, "To create a work environment that is exciting, enjoyable and productive. To continue to build a team that is responsive to our customers, strives to meet our mission and works to make our vision of *Healthy People through Healthy Environments in West Virginia* a reality."

#### **Randy's Vision:**

Randy continues to see challenges developing. Stating that most of the areas new-recent flooding has caused concern over asbestos removal prior to demolition and indoor air quality concerns from water inundation resulting in mold and fungus. Twenty years ago these issues would not have been considered. Recent flooding has also shown that infrastructures are fragile (drinking water, waste water treatment, and associated collection and distribution lines). While we must be prepared for new and emerging issues, we must



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remain strong in our traditional core programs such as drinking water, food sanitation, and radiological health. While the flood may have emphasized these issues, we know that the needs were great even before the flood. As we are finding out through the strategic planning process, environmental health issues are not always easily defined or communicated. Public education and outreach are critical for environmental health. It should not take a food borne disease outbreak or a major flood to draw attention and understanding to our programs and activities. Randy sees OEHS as a link on a vast web site of public services and Environmental Health touches many different areas and services provided by state and other agencies. Randy also feels that County Health Departments are very important and must be kept strong in programs, resources, and personnel. He added they were valuable resources when he was a District Engineer.

**Ron's Vision:**

Ron does have a vision for OEHS and he believes it has already begun to unfold. Under OEHS' strategic leadership he's seeing strong unification under way, better working and sharing relationships between divisions, and "smart" decisions being made; all being main ingredients for a better and stronger functioning organization.

**Vic's Vision:**

When Vic was asked what his vision for the next year at OEHS was, he simply said, "Continue the reorganization and honing of the Environmental Engineering Division to develop and maximize services of the organization to enhance drinking water services and compliance for every West Virginian."

**Who Knew?**



Are you  
from a  
Small  
town?



Submitted by: Fred Barley

*You know you are from a small town if . . .*

1. You can name everyone you graduated with.
2. You know what 4-H is.
3. You ever went to parties at a pasture, a barn or in the middle of a dirt road.
4. You used to drag "main"
5. You schedule parties around the schedule of different police officers, since you know which ones would bust you and which ones wouldn't-same goes with the game warden.
6. You ever went cow-tipping or snipe hunting.
7. School gets canceled for state events.
8. You could never buy cigarettes because all the store clerks knew how old you were (and if you were old enough they'd tell your parents anyhow).
9. When you did find someone old enough and brave enough

10. to buy cigarettes, you still had to go out to the country and drive on back roads to smoke them.
10. You were ever in the Homecoming parade.
11. You have ever gone home for Homecoming
12. It was cool to date someone from the neighboring town.
13. You had senior skip day.
14. The whole school went to the same party after graduation. You don't give directions by street names or directions by references (turn by Nelson's house, go two blocks east Anderson's, and its four houses left of the track field).
15. The Country Club golf course had only 9 holes.
16. You can't help but date your friend's ex-girlfriend.
17. Your car stays filthy because of the dirt roads, and you will never own a dark vehicle for this reason.
18. You think kids that ride skateboards are weird.
19. The town next to you is considered "trashy" or "snooty," but is actually just like your town.
20. Getting paid minimum wage is considered a raise.
21. You refer to anyone with a house newer than 1980 as the "rich people."
22. The people in the city dress funny, then you pick up on the trend two years later.
23. You bragged to your friends because you got pipes on your truck for your birthday.
24. Anyone you want can be found at either the Dairy Queen or the feed store.
- 25.

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You see at least one friend a week driving a tractor through town.

26. Football coaches suggest that you haul hay for the summer to get stronger.
27. Directions are given using "the" stop light as a reference.
28. The city council meets at the coffee shop.
29. Your letter jacket was worn after your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
30. You have ever taken a trailer or dog to school on a daily basis.
31. Weekend excitement involves a trip to a Wal-Mart.
32. Even ugly people enter beauty pageants.
33. You decide to walk somewhere for exercise and 5 people pull over and ask if you need a ride.
34. Your teachers call you by your older siblings names.
35. Your teachers remember when they taught your parents.
36. You can charge at all the local stores.
37. The closest McDonald's is 45 miles away.
38. So is the closest mall.
39. It is normal to see an old man riding through town on a riding lawn mower.
40. You laugh your tail off reading this because you know they're all true.



**Newsletter Team:**

Pam Smith, Reporter  
Roger Green, Reporter

Scott Rodeheaver, Reporter  
Stacy Roe, Reporter  
Rick Watson, Proof  
Pat Taylor, Proof  
Fred Barley, Reporter  
Linda Jordan, Editor  
Paul Gallagher, Reporter

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team for all of the effort that they have put into this project. It was a long time coming together, but I am quite proud of the finished product. I am looking forward the next issue. Everyone was so willing to give their part to become part of the team-----GO

**TEAM!!!!**

Linda Jordan



From the editor:

During the past 1 ½ years at OEHS I have not only learned what it is to work in state government, but also have had the privilege of working with a great group of people. I have watched and participated as the administrative services staff conducted their Vision 21 efforts. While some of the survey results were not what we wanted to hear, we listened, we struggled, and through the miracle of working together, we have tried to step up to the plate with an answer. I have learned how much can be achieved when each contributes a small part. I had never worked in an environment that so much

emphasis was put on giving the employees a chance to make a difference. We are fortunate to work under the leadership of Barb, Vic, Ron, and Randy. To everyone that caused us to "have" to go through the Vision 21 process—I say thank you. For this process, I have a better understanding of our service, our customers, and most of all of myself.

Results of the Vision 21 Process:

1. This newsletter
2. Cross Training among the Administrative Services Staff.
3. New Employee Manual—OEHS customized
4. New Supervisor Manual—OEHS customized (almost completed)
5. Quick Key Guide
6. Improved access to vehicle reservations via website.
7. Telephone backup calendar.
8. Software users help group.  
Members are:  
Joe Wyatt—Lotus  
Connie Joyce—Word Perfect  
Fred Barley—GroupWise  
Mike Brown—Microsoft Prod.  
Tony Turner



With the coming and going of employees, it is hard to keep up

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with all the changes. One major change is the telephone extensions. An updated telephone list with extensions has been added for your convenience.  
 Courtesy of: Dona Hall

Barley, Fred 6723  
 Barringer, Blaine 6765  
 Blijd, Milton 6778  
 Brown, Mike 6743  
 Browning, Jamie 6770  
 Canterbury, Danya 6767  
 Chestnut, BJ 6735  
 Cobb, Kathryn 6711  
 Crouch, Glora 6771  
 Crum, Helen 6777  
 Cupit, Susan 6710  
 Curtis, Randy 6721  
 Cyrus, Lana 6724  
 Dienst, Carolyn 6737  
 Dienst, John 6774  
 Douglas, Nathan 6725  
 Duty, Tammy 6773  
 Elkins, Dana 6764  
 Elzey, Deborah 6703  
 Fleming, Nancy 6712  
 Forren, Ron 6726  
 Fox, Bruce 6741  
 Gallagher, Paul 6718  
 Godby, Nancy 6769  
 Green, Lea Ann 6781  
 Green, Roger 6739  
 Griffith, Jan 6762  
 Grigsby, Linda 6719  
 Hale, Tina 6758  
 Hale, Tonia 6761  
 Harper, Clelene 6756  
 Hart, Bob 6709  
 Herold, Bill 6760  
 Hicks, Russell 6763  
 Hill, Dan 6772  
 Hodge, Wilma 6766  
 Ivey, Walt 6715

Jones, Linda 6727  
 Jones, Phil 6728  
 Jordan, Linda 6704  
 Joyce, Connie 6705  
 Keaton, Arnold 6755  
 Keller, Linda 6708  
 Kellogg, Mitzi 6753  
 Latorre, Sue 6732  
 Lowe, Mary 6779  
 Mace, Jennifer 6768  
 Martino, Philip 6782  
 Mather, Mary Beth 6780  
 Miller, Lee 6717  
 Parker, Dan 6754  
 Patrick, Jackie(temp) 6702  
 Peggs, Richard 6720  
 Ray, Amanda 6734  
 Robinette, Charlie 6714  
 Rodeheaver, Scott 6713  
 Roe, Stacey 6707  
 Shedd, Charlie 6740  
 Smith, Barbara 6751  
 Smith, Jeff 6722  
 Smith, Pam 6752  
 Snyder, Connie 6750  
 Stevens, Vicky 6706  
 Stewart, David 6742  
 Taylor, Barb 2229  
 Taylor, Pat 6749  
 Thornton, Dave 6783  
 Toomey, Bill 6746  
 Turner, Tony 6716  
 Watson, Rick 6747  
 Wilford, Vic 6745  
 Wilson, Wayne 6744  
 Wyatt, Joe 6730

Wheeling DO

238-1145

District Office Numbers:

Beckley DO 256-6666  
 Fairmont DO 367-2751  
 Kearneysville DO 725-9453  
 Philippi DO 457-2296  
 St. Albans DO 722-0611