

The Resource

Employee Newsletter of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

April 2002



BRUCE DEAN – DEDICATED MINE INSPECTOR

Bruce Dean, Division of Mineral Resources Management, said, “Most people have no idea what a coal mine is like. Ohio has one that’s spread out underground for 7-1/2 miles, 500 feet below the surface!”

He would know: he began working in the mines at age 19.

He continued his description of underground mining. “People get down into a mine on an elevator, but the big equipment is taken down the ‘slope opening,’ a steep inclined shaft that may be 1,800 feet long.”

He explained, “The ‘working face’ is where the coal is mined. The tunnels are called entries, and some of them are only three feet high. It can be very claustrophobic!”

Conveyor belts run through the tunnels to take the coal out, but mine workers take the electric trolley that runs on tracks or a rubber-tire battery-operated cart. They also do a lot of walking.

Although some areas have lights, mine workers depend on the bright lights of the equipment and their hard hats with battery-powered lights on top. With the dangers inherent in underground mining, workers also

wear “self-rescuers,” equipment that chemically generates oxygen to help them escape smoke or fire.

Bruce explained that mines are wired for everything these days and the equipment is very high tech. “The public thinks miners work with a pick and shovel, but that’s not true anymore. These days, computers monitor and run every aspect of mining, and miners are highly educated.”

One of the vital aspects of underground mining is getting air in and out of the tunnels. Huge six-foot fans keep the air moving at high velocity. Breathable-air is kept circulating and is forced outside, where it’s sampled by air-analysis equipment to test for noxious gases and dust.

Bruce continued, “Ohio law specifies that mines must be a safe place to work. Both management and miners are responsible for safety.” Mine inspectors visit every 90 days, and inspect structures, equipment, procedures, and check for compliance with mining laws.

Training is very important. “Proper training saves lives,” Bruce explained. “Training is free to the operators and miners, and is required by federal law. Eight hours are required every year. Last year, 4,500 people were trained.”

Bruce grew up in Piedmont, west of Steubenville, in a coal mining family. Bruce’s father, who was in charge of a mine, introduced his son to the mines when he was a youngster. Bruce



said, “I looked at all that huge mining equipment, and knew that’s what I wanted to do!”

He started as a miner at age 19, and in 1981 went to work for the Division of Industrial Relations (later absorbed into ODNR). During his career, he’s been a worker in environmental reclamation, a mine rescue coordinator, mine safety inspector for surface mines, and underground safety inspector.

Today, he’s the division’s roof control specialist, and has been filling in for a few months at Fountain Square as acting mine safety manager. Bruce concluded, “This assignment has been an eye-opener. Being in the field, you don’t always know what goes on at headquarters. I’ve learned a lot and appreciate all the support from the Columbus staff.”

Bruce’s home is in the quiet hills of Harrison County, near Moorefield, where he lives with his wife, Sharon. They have three children, Dustin, Lisa, and Michael; a grandson, Jerod; and a devoted poodle, Kelly. Bruce likes fishing and remodeling.



JOIN ODNR'S "NATURALLY SPEAKING" TOASTMASTERS CLUB

And now ... a toast! To ODNR, which has established its own chapter of Toastmasters International, an organization that helps people develop effective communication by becoming accustomed to public speaking. You're invited to join!

Meetings will be held every other week on Wednesdays for one hour. At each meeting, two members will give a five- or 10-minute speech.

Initial membership is \$16 for a new member fee, plus \$18 for the first six months (\$34 total), and \$3 per month thereafter. ODNR's club is closed to the public, but open to all ODNR employees. ODNR's club is considered part of the department's Professional Development Curriculum.

At their first meeting in February, charter members of the "Naturally Speaking" Toastmasters Club elected the following officers:

President, **Arley Owens**, Recycling

VP/Education, **Sheryl Clinger**, Soil & Water

VP/Membership, **Phil Miller**, Watercraft

VP/PR, **Shelly Ward**, Labor Relations

Secretary, **Kathy Westrick**, Internal Audits

Treasurer, **Lori Houpe**, Administration

Sergeant of Arms, **Sybil Bell**, Parks



For membership information, contact Phil Miller at 614-265-6497. The next meeting is April 10, Building I-1 conference room, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. Bring your own lunch.

Toastmasters International (www.toastmasters.org) members learn by speaking to groups and working with others in a supportive environment. Everyone gets the opportunity to practice conducting meetings, giving impromptu speeches, presenting prepared speeches, and offering constructive evaluation.

Membership includes a variety of resources on speaking and a monthly magazine. Around the world, more than three million men and women of all ages and occupations have benefited from Toastmasters training.

TOGETHER AGAIN

The department's Public Information Center located in Building C-1 has been merged with the Geologic Records Center (Building B-2). The two operations had previously operated as a single facility from 1977 to 1993. The Public Information Center was the site for distribution of division literature and apparel.

Those visiting the newly consolidated Public Information/Geologic Records Center will be able to obtain copies of the most common ODNR publications, and, using a new Internet kiosk, print copies of other informational materials from the new publications page of the ODNR web site (www.ohiodnr.com).

The sale of ODNR-related apparel has been discontinued. However, many of these items will still be available through the Ohio State Parks gift catalog and at the Ohio State Fair. ODNR employees can use the department's partnership with Cabela's outdoor gear to have the ODNR logo placed on items purchased through their catalog (your office has a special order form, and you save 10 percent).

Long-time Public Information Center employee, Donna Schrappe, can now be found at the Division of Wildlife's customer service section.

GRADUATE TINA RAY THANKS TAP



Tina Ray graduated from Capital University (Columbus) in December 2001, thanks to help from the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

Tina, who's an administrative assistant with the Environmental Education Section of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, began her quest for a bachelor's degree in political science back in 1976. In the interceding 25 years, she married and had four children, but in 1985 she returned to Capital's Center for Lifelong Learning, a program for working adults.

She applied to the Workforce Development program for tuition assistance and was also able to buy a computer through the Computer Purchase Plan. Tina said, "It's really easy to apply for the funds. You get vouchers so you don't have to pay up front and wait for reimbursement."

Tina added, "Don't let go of your dreams. With support, determination, and a plan, you'll make your dreams come true. I would like to thank my division family who encouraged me, and my husband, Alfred, and our four kids — Jabari, Jumaane, Jamila, and Janay — for supporting my dream." Tina hopes to continue her education on a graduate level, perhaps pursuing a degree in environmental law.

Workforce Development is a joint labor/management partnership between the State of Ohio and OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11. The Tuition Assistance Program offers up to \$3,000 per fiscal year to state bargaining unit employees for tuition and other fees. The Computer Purchase Plan offers interest-free loans with payments made through payroll deduction. For more information, visit the web at www.wdonline.org.

MARCS UPDATE

The Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) is a work in progress that will link law enforcement personnel statewide in an expanded and enhanced network of voice and data transmission. This new system will save time and provide greater security to officers.

The state has been divided into grids and each grid will be tested for voice and data coverage. According to Rodger Norcross, MARCS law enforcement staff officer, testing has begun in central Ohio counties.

The next step is to equip ODNR and State Highway Patrol law enforcement vehicles and vessels with computers, called MCTs (Mobile Computer Terminals) for data transmission. Officers will be able to receive and send such information as license plate inquiries or incident details.

Training has also begun with "train-the-trainer" classes for divisions, and instruction on the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for radio operators at the Communications Center.

PARK RETIREMENTS

After more than 27 years, **George Stephens, Jr.**, retired from Geneva State Park where he was the assistant manager. George plans to relax and spend time with his family.

Mary Hursong, clerk specialist, retired from East Fork with more than 23 years of service. She was the only account clerk the park has ever had. Mary plans to spend time with her family and friends. She also hopes to write and publish a book.

Chester Porter, auto technician, retired from Shawnee with more than 41 years of service. Chet received numerous commendations for his work, including being named Employee of the Quarter. He plans to spend time with his family, go "flea marketing," and participate in American Legion activities.

NEW WATERCRAFT MESSAGES TO AIR THIS SPRING & SUMMER

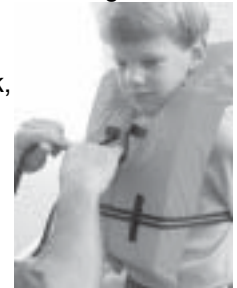
The Division of Watercraft has produced two new public service announcements with the creative assistance of the Office of Communications.

One 30-second TV spot features a young boy understanding the importance of wearing a lifejacket. The second spot features Ray Jones, a watercraft officer at Buckeye Lake State Park, sharing general safe boating tips.



Watch for the TV ads on **WJW-TV** Fox Channel 8 in Cleveland, **WCMH-TV** Channel 4 in Columbus, and the 25 **Ohio News Network** cable systems statewide.

The ads, which premiered in March, will be shown again May 20-June 2, July 29-August 11.



Radio ads will also air May 20-June 2 on **WLVQ-FM** 96.9 in Columbus, **WMMS-FM** 110.7 in Cleveland, the 84 **Ohio News Network** radio stations network, and the **Buckeye Sportsman** radio program.

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO SOILS PROGRAM

In 1957, Merrill Gilfillan wrote in the Ohio Conservation Bulletin, "Soil is our most important natural resource. Soil is basic to all the dynamic, renewable resources. Without it, life as we know it is impossible."

The department's soil survey program celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 1. Ohio's involvement with soil began in 1900 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducted the first soil survey in Montgomery County. In 1941, the Ohio Soil Conservation Committee was created to oversee the formation of local soil conservation districts.

The Division of Lands and Soil was established within ODNR in 1949, but wasn't activated until April 1, 1952. The division's goal was to complete "as rapidly as possible, an accurate and workable soil and land use inventory of the state" so farmers could use the information to maximize sustainable production while conserving water and minimizing erosion.

In 1969, Ohio's soil and water conservation program became a part of ODNR when the Division of Soil and Water Districts was created. In 1982, the two divisions merged to form the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Larry Vance, who retired at the end of February 2002, was the first chief.

Tim Gerber, soil inventory and evaluation administrator, reports that a reunion of ODNR's soil scientists is being planned for September. More information will be available in future issues of *The Resource*.

THINGS TO DO IN APRIL IN OHIO

Our state has to be the leader in celebrations this month. Governor Taft has proclaimed April **Let's Go Camping Month** and **Environmental Education Month**. It's also **Take Pride, Ohio!** Month, when communities conduct litter cleanups. April 22-28 is **National Wildlife Week**, for celebrating wild animals and places. Mohican State Park is holding a **Wildlife Weekend** on April 26-28 with more than 45 scheduled programs. April 22 is Earth Day; April 25 is **Take Your Child to Work Day** at ODNR; and April 26 is **Arbor Day**, promoting forest conservation. For more information, check out ODNR's web site at www.ohiodnr.com.

ANNIVERSARIES

5 Years

Jason Richendollar, Project Crew Leader, CCC/Riffe
Lori Grupenhof, Cabin Reservations Clerk, Parks/Lake Hope
Paula Staudinger, Retail NRW, Parks/Maumee Bay
Brenda Duncan, Secretary, Wildlife #4
Corey Kerr, Equipment Operator, Forestry/Zaleski

10 Years

Cynthia Longworth, Administrative Assistant, CCC/Quilter
Tom Mace, Maintenance Worker, Parks/Lake Hope
Dana Bollin, Naturalist Supervisor, Parks/Maumee Bay
Mitchell Carpenter, Customer Service Attendant, Wildlife
Kenneth Ritchie, Wildlife Area Technician, Wildlife #4
Mark Smith, Wildlife Investigator, Wildlife #4
Michael Martin, Maintenance Repair Worker, Forestry/New Philadelphia

15 Years

Debbie Thrush, Custodial Worker, Parks/Lake Hope
Jim Hinson, Campground Attendant, Parks/Lake Hope

20 Years

Robert Barbosky, Project Supervisor, CCC/Columbus
Mark Geldien, Crew Leader, Parks/Crane Creek

25 Years

Betty Betts, Custodial Worker, Parks/Lake Hope
William Roshak, Asst. Wildlife Mgmt. Supervisor, Wildlife #2
James Baker, Wildlife Investigator, Wildlife #4
Mike Burnside, Forest Officer, Forestry/Scioto Trail
Marti Prouty, Business Service Officer, Forestry/Zanesville

30 Years

Cindy Love, Executive Secretary, CCC
Denis Franklin, Wildlife Area Supervisor, Wildlife #2

Robert Stern, Forest Officer, Forestry/Shawnee

35 Years

James Splete, Wildlife Investigator, Wildlife #4

MILESTONES

Retractions

In the March Resource, it was erroneously reported that Dave Bergman had retired. Indeed, he has not. But he did celebrate 25 years of service.

Also, it was stated that Greg Schneider had transferred to Recycling, when in fact he is still working for DNAP.

Retirements

Dewey McDaniel, Residential Camp Manager, CCC/Zaleski, 31 years
George Stephens, Jr., Asst. Mgr., Parks/Geneva, 27-1/2 years
Larry Vance, Chief, Soil & Water, 28+ years
Linn Roth, Project Soil Scientist, Soil & Water/Canton, 27+ years
Diana Holt, Program Specialist, Soil & Water/Northwest, 25+ years
Don Brooks, Assistant District Forester, Forestry/Athens, 28+ years
Sam Adkins, Auto Technician, Forestry/Shawnee, 27+ years
Jeff Kinkaid, Treatment Plant Operator, Parks/Harrison Lake, 15 years
Mary Hursong, Clerk Specialist, Parks/East Fork, 23+ years

New Hires

Byran Ford, Intern, Soil & Water/Soil Inventory
Timothy Walls, Radio Operator, Administration/Law Enforcement
Mary Ann Cvitanovich, Radio Operator, Administration/Law Enforcement

Transfers

Jennifer Windus, from Natural Areas, to Wildlife, Wildlife Biology Program Administrator
Jennifer McCray, from REALM, to Wildlife, Secretary
Tim Steinbauer, from Administration/Law Enforcement, to Watercraft/Ashtabula, Officer

KOCHER AWARDED

John Kocher, park officer at Cowan Lake and East Fork state parks, was honored at the Clinton County Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. John was recognized for his dedication and his contributions to the community and public safety. Appreciation Day was founded by the pastor of a local church so citizens could regularly express their appreciation to law enforcement officers.

SAFETY

Store food



the safe way!

- Put foods in the refrigerator within two hours of buying or preparing them, or within one hour if the air temperature is above 90 degrees F.
- Freeze fresh meat, poultry, fish, and shellfish that will not be used within a few days.
- Use refrigerated leftovers within three to four days.
- When in doubt, throw food out.

This message brought to you by the ODNR-OCSEA Health & Safety Committee.



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Bob Taft, Governor

Sam Speck, Director

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