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Fall - Winter 2011 / 2012 Newsletter

*Marshall University's West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center (WVBAC), a state-mandated program within Marshall University's Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS), Serving 22 Central and Southern West Virginia Counties*

## **Morris Creek Watershed Selected for EPA Land Revitalization Project**

EPA announced in August of 2011 that the Morris Creek Watershed Association (MCWA), located near Montgomery, WV, has been selected to receive assistance through EPA's Land Revitalization Program. This funding supports community-based land revitalization programs, and MCWA was selected as one of only ten projects throughout the country. This announcement, which provides \$30,000 in funding, came after MCWA and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Centers partnered to submit an application seeking funding to assist in business plan development, facility layout planning and associated aspects of their future Environmental Education Learning Center. This Center, once completed, plans to offer educational support and outreach to area residents, other local watershed groups in the region, and K-12 public school programs. MCWA has obtained a .66-acre parcel of property, a former industrial site, for this future endeavor.

The planned Learning Center will augment MCWA's mission of "improving the safety of its local watershed system, restoring its natural beauty, and returning the watershed to a safe environment for all residents while restoring water quality to a condition capable of supporting both aquatic life and local recreational activities".

The watershed has been involved with a number of projects over the past several years, with significant success in stream restoration from acid mine drainage and stream bank erosion, education in the classroom with their "Trout in the Classroom" partnership with local schools, and stream habitat restoration activities, including installation of "K Dams" in Morris Creek. These example activities earned the MCWA the Watershed of the Year award, an annual award presented by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.



*Mike King, MCWA member, helps a young volunteer release trout hatchlings into Morris Creek*

(Photo courtesy of MCWA)



*Pouring trout eggs into an incubation tank, part of MCWA's "Trout in the Classroom" Activities*

(Photo courtesy of MCWA)

## ***Closed Store Building in Wayne Targeted For Redevelopment***

In small towns all across WV, people are looking at new ways to utilize existing buildings for community revitalization. A prime example is found in the community of Wayne. The Coalfield Development Corporation, operating under the Wayne County Economic Development Authority, is undertaking the task of transforming a closed building, located in the heart of the town and locally referred to as the Urlings Building, into new office space and apartment housing. The Urlings Building, built in the 1920's, was originally used by an oil and natural gas company. Later, the building was the location of Urlings General Department Store, and more recently home to a Dollar General Store. The top floor included apartments at one time in the past. The multi-story structure was closed for a number of years, and is now owned by the Housing Authority of Wayne County, with the Coalfield De-

velopment Corporation serving as the developer.

One of the first steps in the process of redeveloping the structure is to determine if environmental impacts are present that need addressed. The West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University has secured funding to perform a Phase I environmental assessment with an asbestos check on the structure. Funding is provided from a grant awarded to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection from the EPA's Brownfields Program, which provides funds to perform environmental assessments on select properties with high redevelopment potential.

This is one of several redevelopment projects being undertaken in Wayne county. For additional information on this story, contact Brandon Dennison, Executive Director of the Coalfield Development Corporation, at 304/617-2735.



*Exterior View , Former Urlings Building*



*Interior View of Top Floor, Former Urlings Building*

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## ***Mount View High School in McDowell County Getting Solar Panels***

A solar panel array is scheduled to be installed at Mount View High School, located near Welch in McDowell County. This project is the result of efforts from a combination of entities, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Office of Coalfield Community Development within the WV Division of Energy, and the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center (WVBAC), operating within the Center for Environmental, Geotechnical and Applied Sciences (CEGAS) at Marshall University. The school is located on a high ridge that was formerly surface mine property, with extensive "sky-view", making the site a good candidate for a solar panel array system.

According to Dr. Tony Szwilski, CEGAS Director, the project is another example illustrating the approach Marshall is taking to evaluate renewable energy resources across the State. George Carico, Program Coordinator with the WVBAC, added, "Solar panels have been around for a number of years, but many people don't fully understand the various aspects, both positive and negative, of this type of renewable energy. At Mount View High School, the students, teachers, parents and

members of the community will be getting first-hand knowledge. We'll be educating a wide variety of people about this energy resource".

The 5 kilowatt system will be mounted on the roof of the school where a platform is currently located., providing the opportunity to see the installation up close. The system will be monitored by teachers and results incorporated into existing science courses. Installation is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2012.

*Unused radio dish equipment will be removed to make room for a 5-kW solar array on the existing roof access platform at Mount View High School near Welch*



## Charleston West Side Main Street Working to Revive Former Staats Building

*“The Staats Building is the anchor project to get Charleston’s West Side growing again. The building has tremendous re-use possibilities.”*

Pat McGill  
Executive Director,  
Charleston West Side  
Main Street

The former Staats Building, a 4-story brick structure built in the 1920’s and currently vacant, is getting attention from the Charleston West Side Main Street Program, who hopes to redevelop the building for multiple new uses. Pat McGill, Executive Director of Charleston West Side Main Street, believes this structure is the centerpiece for revitalizing Charleston’s West Side, but realizes it will be a difficult challenge. Pat states “The Staats Building is the anchor project to get Charleston’s West Side growing again. The building has tremendous re-use possibilities”.

Parts of the building have been used for numerous purposes during its 90-year past. Past uses include a doctors clinic, hospital, theater, grocery store, and department store. The 4th floor was once the Order of Knights of Pythias lodge hall.

With older structures also comes challenges. The building has

excessive amounts of medical-related equipment and materials present, and asbestos is known to exist in many of the building components.

The WV Brownfields Assistance Center at Marshall University has been assisting Pat in addressing environmental impacts within the building. Their first steps are to conduct a Phase I site assessment on the property, and a feasibility study

to help determine the best building reuses. This initial work is occurring utilizing funding recently obtained from the Benedum Foundation called FOCUS, a small grant program administered by the Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center. Once these initial efforts are completed, additional funding will be sought to address environmental impacts and related redevelopment needs.



*Front View of Former Staats Building as Seen From Bigley Avenue*

### WV Brownfields Assistance Centers Team with EPA Region III and WVDEP for Brownfields Grant Training Workshop

In continuing to provide communities and redevelopment entities across West Virginia with the latest up-to-date information on EPA brownfields grant funding, the West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Center (WVBAC) at Marshall University partnered with EPA Region III Brownfields Program and the Northern WV Brownfields Assistance Center to conduct a free workshop on 2012 EPA brownfield grants. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Land Restoration provided workshop meeting space at their headquarters in Charleston. The workshop was conducted on October 26th, and was attended by approximately 20 people.

Joe Nowak, Project Manager with EPA Region III Brownsfields and Land Revitalization Program, conducted the workshop. As a whole, WV submitted a total of 8 applications for assessment, cleanup, or RLF grants. Awards are to be announced in the Spring of 2012.



west virginia department of environmental protection



Northern West  
Virginia Brownfields  
Assistance Center



West Virginia Brownfields  
Assistance Center

**West Virginia  
Brownfields Assistance  
Center at Marshall  
University**

**Marshall University Center for  
Environmental, Geotechnical and  
Applied Sciences (CEGAS)**

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Boone Braxton Cabell Clay Fayette Greenbrier  
Kanawha Lincoln Logan Mason McDowell

**West Virginia Brownfields Assistance  
Center at Marshall University**

***“Brownfields Redevelopment:  
Community Based Strategies”***

Mercer Mingo Monroe Nicholas Pocahontas  
Putnam Raleigh Summers Wayne  
Webster Wyoming

**“At A Glance” - 2012 Events**

It's another busy year for the WVBAC and CEGAS at Marshall University.  
Here's a list of some of the events we're hosting and/or sponsoring in 2012.

**West Virginia Geothermal Conference**

*May 22, Flatwoods Conference Center, Flatwoods, WV*

Find out the latest on geothermal energy potential in WV

**Geohazards Impacting Transportation in the Appalachian Region**

*July 31st - August 1st, Tamarack Conference Center, Beckley, WV*

Focus on geohazards in the Appalachian region related to  
transportation, with a tour of unique southern WV sites

**7th Annual WV Brownfields Conference**

*September 5th and 6th, Glade Springs Resort, Beckley, WV*

Focus on the latest community, state and federal brownfield issues,  
with case studies, success stories, and networking opportunities

**WV Wind Conference**

*September 25th, Canaan Valley Resort, Canaan Valley, WV*

In partnership with the WVDOE, the latest news on wind energy  
development and related issues across WV

**WV Miners Celebration**

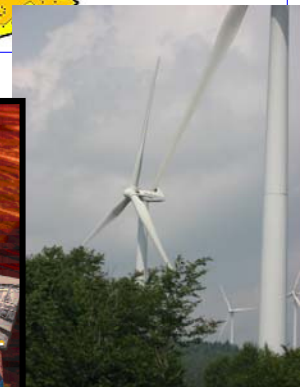
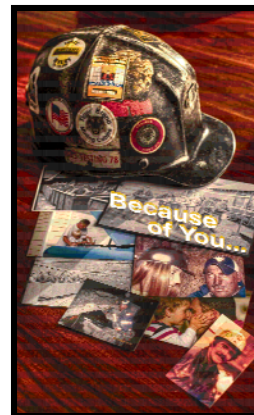
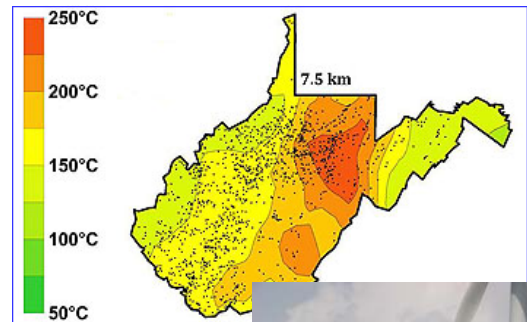
*October 4th - 5th, Tamarack Conference Center, Beckley, WV*

Celebrating the WV miner, past, present, and future

For additional information, contact:

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**West Virginia Brownfields  
Assistance Center**