WVAS is proud to be sponsoring the Mid-Year Training Conference this year at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center.

There will be two concurrent sessions offered again this year: Alternate Session or a Managing Food Safety: Strategies for a Community Response Course (Bundle Team Training).

Conference registration will begin May 9, 2018 at 12:30 PM with the general session starting at 1PM. The WVAS Business Meeting will follow. The annual picnic will be at 5:30PM.

The schedule for the rest of the conference is as follows:

**Alternate Session**
Vocational Building

**Thursday May 10**
8AM-8:30 Registration

8:30AM-10:30AM Alternative Systems, When, Why and Where to Use Them

10:30-10:45AM Break

10:45AM-12:00 PM Eric J Dotseth
State Public Health Entomologist

12:00PM-1:00PM Lunch

1:00PM-4:15PM Public Health Radiation Awareness Training

**Friday May 11**
8:30AM-12:00PM Conducting HACCP Based Environmental Risk Analysis
Foodborne Outbreak Investigations

12:00 PM Adjournment

**Bundie Team Training**
Jackson Hall

**Thursday May 10**
8AM-5PM

**Friday May 11**
8:00AM-5PM

Separate Registration Required for Bundle Team Training

**Run!**
If you would like to run for WVAS Vice-President or 2-Year Board Member, please contact Nomination Committee Chair, Bill Nestor (Bill.E.Nestor@wv.gov). Ballots must be mailed to members at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

Election results and awards will be announced at the WVAS business meeting that will be held September 20, 2018, at Glade Springs Resort, Beckley, WV as part of the WVPHA Annual Conference.
The legislative session ran from January 10-March 10, 2018.

The following environmental health related issues were introduced:

SB375 Relating to Famers Markets: 64CSR102 in effect until June 8, 2018. After that date no longer in effect. See the Farmer’s Market Article on page 4 for more details.

HB 4478 Authorizing public schools to distribute excess food to students. The board of education will need to propose a plan of how this will be done to evaluate if the food is handled safely.

SB 463 created a group to examine transferring the milk program to Department of Agriculture

64 CSR 3 Public Water Rule was updated.

Interstate Environmental Health Seminar

The Interstate Environmental Health Seminar (IEHS) will be held in West Virginia this year. The seminar will be held July 11-13, 2018 at Glade Springs Resort, Daniels, WV.

Presentations will cover a wide range of environmental health topics and will include presenters from both in and out of state. This is a wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and get different view points from other environmental health practitioners.

A reception and cookout are planned and there will be exhibitors set up. This should be a fun and educational event.

For more information please check out the IEHS section which includes a welcome letter and tentative agenda here: http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvas/IEHS/index.asp

There is also a exhibitor registration and guide located at the address above if you know anyone that would be interested in being an exhibitor.
What Have you been up to?

Public Health Week at DHHR
Each division had a day to set up in DHHR and talk about the services they provide. We set up with the white powder game and gave out fridge thermometers!

Have something going on in your county? Send pictures of events or awards to Stacy at stacy.e.king@wv.gov so they can be included here!

Tree out of Plastic Bottles?
Stacy King spotted this tree made out of plastic bottles while in Albuquerque, NM at the MFRPS Conference. Recycled Art!

Harmful Algae Blooms
Harmful algae blooms are also known as red tides, blue-green algae or cyanobacteria. They have severe impacts on human health, ecosystems and the economy. The algal blooms can be toxic and it is advised to keep people and pets away from water that is green, scummy or smells bad.

Harmful algal blooms can produce extremely dangerous toxins that can sicken or kill people and animals, create dead zones in the water, raise treatment costs for drinking water and hurt industries that depend on clean water.

Harmful algal blooms need sunlight, slow-moving water and nutrients to develop. The nutrient pollution from human activities make the problems worse, increasing the occurrence and severity of blooms.

Harmful algae blooms have been occurring in West Virginia and a response plan has been developed to help protect people and animals from its harmful effects. For more information go to: http://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/public_health/blue_green_algae.asp

WVAS is on Facebook!

WVAS now has a closed group on Facebook to share news and information with members. Request to join at www.facebook.com/groups/263384244100903/
Farmer’s Markets

Senate Bill (SB) 375 Relating to Farmer’s Markets was passed by the legislature during the 2018 session. It goes into effect June 8, 2018.

When SB 375 goes into effect on June 8, 2018 64 CSR 102 Farmers Market Vendor rule will no longer be in effect.

The following are some of the key attributes of SB 375:

SB 375 does require that (WV Code 19-35-3-e) a consignment farmers market obtain a food establishment permit (retail food permit) issued by the local health department.

SB 375 does require that (WV Code 19-35-3-e) individual vendors selling certain farm and food products (including but not limited to meat, poultry, dairy, fish, and sprouted seeds) at a farmers market (not associated with a consignment farmers market) get a food establishment permit (retail food permit) issued by the local health department.

SB 375 allows vendors at farmers markets to sell non-potentially hazardous foods (i.e. baked goods) without registering with the local health department.

SB 375 allows vendors to sell home canned products as specified in 19-35-5 a-e. These home canned products can only be sold at a Farmers Market.

SB 375 allows WVDA to make rules related to product sampling at farmers markets, that will not require a food establishment permit from the LHD. But it is our interpretation that a food establishment permit will be required for chef demonstration at a Farmers Market.

SB 375 states that WVDA shall propose emergency or legislative rule implementing this article; to date we have no information on a WVDA rule related to a proposed Farmers Market rule.
Tentative Sanitarian Training Schedule

Week One 8/6/18-8/10/18
Public Health 101, Microbiology, Epidemiology, (Charleston)

Week Two 8/20/18—8/24/17
TBD Charleston, WV

Week Three 9/10/18-9/14/18
Recreational Water Facilities
Morgantown, WV

Week Four 10/1/18-10/5/18
Food Charleston, WV

Week Five 10/22/18–10/26/18
On-Site Sewage Cedar Lakes

In addition to classroom training, there will be on-line classes, projects, reading and OJT to complete. A more detailed schedule will be available closer to the start date of training.

FOODBORNE OUTBREAK MANUAL

The Foodborne Disease Outbreak Manual has been updated and released.

The updated manual was a collaborated effort between Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Office of Environmental Health and members from local health departments.

The manual lays out the roles different agencies perform during a foodborne outbreak investigation. It describes the epidemiological aspects, environmental health assessments and sample collection.

The appendix of the manual includes helpful guides as well as forms that can be used during an investigation.

Trainings on the new outbreak manual have been conducted in Flatwoods, Keyser and Huntington.

One is scheduled at the Beckley-Raleigh County Health Department on May 17, 2018.

Other trainings will be scheduled at a later date.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

May
May 9-11, 2018
WVAS Mid-Year Conference
Cedar Lakes Conference Center
Ripley, WV
http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvas/Events/index.asp

July
July 11-13, 2018
Interstate Environmental Health Seminar
Glade Springs Resort, WV

September
September 19-21, 2018
Annual WV Public Health Conference—Glade Springs Resort, WV
http://www.wvpublichealthassociation.org/conference.html
WVAS Executive Council

**Elected Officers**

President: David Whitaker  
Vice-President: VJ Davis

**Members at Large**

2-Year: Mark Hawkins  
1-Year: Judy Ashcraft

**Appointed Members**

Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Whaley  
Newsletter: Stacy King

**Ex-Officio Member**

Public Health Sanitation Interim Director: Judy Vallandingham

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**What’s the Good News?**

Let’s wish the following people good luck on starting Master’s Programs: Brandy Armstrong and Emilee Price have started Master of Public Health Programs and Samantha Loudin started a Master of Public Administration Program!

The following people passed their R.S exams: Brian Bell, Tina Lowery, Michele Waddell and Keith Lee!

Congratulations to Elizabeth Ratliff on her bundle of joy! Levi James Ratliff was born February 4, 2018 and was 7 pounds 10 ounces!