

# USB News

Facilities Management  
July - August 2012



2012 discount tickets for state employees valid for July 6,7,8,20,21,22, August 3,4,5,18

Go to: <http://dhrm.cache.vi.virginia.gov/discounts/kingsdominion.pdf>

## BANQUET COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [FM picnics to be held Wednesday, August 15](#)  
Day Shift: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The location is yet to be finalized.  
Night Shift: 10:30 p.m. in the USB break room
- Weekly ice cream sales are typically every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the hallway in front of the USB lunchroom.
- Ham and roast beef sandwich sales are typically held the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the hallway in front of the USB lunchroom.



This is your newsletter! We want to include special projects or accomplishments of your department or shop. We would especially love to include any pictures that would be relevant to the newsletter. Please contact Deanna at 8-6422 or email to [glassd1@jmu.edu](mailto:glassd1@jmu.edu).

# Stream Restoration Project

Over the last several years, JMU's landscape has changed in significant ways. Traditionally, JMU's flower beds have consisted primarily of colorful annuals. Now they are being integrated with native grasses and perennials, as well as rocks. Pretty bioretention filters (rain gardens), like the one beside the tennis courts off of Duke Drive, are being installed to filter runoff water from parking lots. JMU's grassy areas have always been lush, green, and well-manicured. So it may have been a surprise to some when an area on the hillside beside ISAT was converted to non-manicured grasses and wildflowers. These changes in our environment are intended to create a more natural, eco-friendly environment.

A more recent project of this nature is the creek restoration managed by Abe Kaufman with the assistance of Megan Bauer from FM's Engineering Department. Abe is the Storm Water Management Program Coordinator. Megan is the Sustainability Coordinator. The area of stream is located between ISAT and UREC on the east side of campus. This particular stream is considered an intermittent stream that only runs during and after storm events.

The restoration included the installation of rock structures in the creek bed and along the banks as well as the installation of numerous plantings. Previously, the lower portion of the stream was comprised of wire gabion baskets filled with rip rap rocks installed into the stream bed and surrounded by concrete. The lower portion of the stream is prone to flooding and erosion of the surrounding grassy areas. For the stream restoration project, the gabion baskets were ripped out of the stream bed and a more natural channel design was implemented. Rock structures were placed at the lower portion of the stream to create a cascade effect, helping to control the flow of water and decrease erosion of the stream banks. In addition to being a

physical hazard, bank erosion allows more sediment into the stream. This clogs spaces in the stream where organisms may live and decreases oxygen for plants and other living things. Erosion also prevents vegetation on the stream bank from thriving. Plant life along the banks and in the streams is important for many reasons. It helps stabilize the bank and absorbs and filters pollutants which, in turn, improves water quality. Plant life also assists in slowing down the flow of runoff water.

For these reasons, various plantings were installed in and along the banks to include 72 trees, 91 shrubs, and 800 plant plugs. Water-loving plants, like juncus and sedge, were planted in the stream bed. A riparian buffer of plant life was created along the banks to include native grasses, swamp milkweed, native shrubs, and various trees. The buffer of plants and unmowed grass extends 10 to 15 feet on both sides of the stream bed.

This project has personally meant a lot to Megan for several reasons. She believes strongly in the benefits of the restoration not only for water quality, but also for having a more natural landscape. She took a lot of time and consideration in selecting the plant stock in order to choose ones that would be most successful, beautiful, useful, and consistent with the campus' landscape. Many of the plants were also selected because they attract living things such as butterflies, insects, and birds. This helps to create a living laboratory in which students can learn by physically interacting with conservation measures installed on campus.

This project was a major collaborative effort. The Landscape Department did an excellent job with the physical installation of the large trees and shrubs and also installed the

# Stream Restoration Project, continued

drip irrigation system that will ensure successful establishment of trees and shrubs. The Arboretum provided many of the shrubs and trees and also helped by lending their time and tractor to unload the very large trees from Waynesboro Nursery. This stream restoration project was designed and installed by

Louise Finger, a stream restoration biologist with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Additional support and funding was provided by The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



Stream restoration project

Photo by Dennis Kiracofe



Meagan Bauer

Photo by Dennis Kiracofe



# FM Snapshots



Landscape workers Lisa Bauer and Michael Hott



Electric Shop Supervisor Al Smith, at his retirement party



Housekeeping Supervisor, Linda Miller



Retirement party for Al Smith



Carpenter, Brian Kelley



Lock Shop administrative assistant, Sherry Reed



## Employee Spotlight

Kevin Lessington is one of two Trades Utilities Apprentices employed by Facilities Management. He works closely with a senior Trades Utilities Worker to complete a multitude of tasks such as the installation and repair of flooring, lights, walls, and doors. Kevin is well known and well-liked and fits in as though he has been with JMU for a long while. In fact, he has only been with FM since November 2010. Aside from a short stint in Toms Brook, the majority of Kevin's life was spent in New York City. It was his life experiences there that have made him the friendly, laid-back, but driven, person he is today.

Kevin was born in Brooklyn and moved to Queens when he was three. Childhood was fun-filled. There was never a shortage of friends with whom to ride bikes or scooters and play football or baseball. He was raised along with his twin sister and older sister by his mother. His family and his godmother had a strong influence on him, but much of Kevin's drive is self-motivated.

Learning a strong work ethic came at an early age. At 13, Kevin packed groceries for a supermarket. At 15, he had a summer job working with elementary school children as a peer mediator. During his senior year of high school, he was employed at McDonalds. Kevin's interest in the maintenance field began when, around 14 or 15 years of age, he started working with his stepfather who is a master plumber and electrician. He began to realize that he had an aptitude and passion for fixing and building things. He carried that passion with him to SUNY Delhi College of Technology where in 2009 he earned an Associate's Degree in Occupational Studies for Electrical Construction and Plumbing/Heating Maintenance.

The transition to living in Virginia and working at JMU has been a positive one. Given that

Kevin is an extrovert, he has especially enjoyed the relationships he has developed with university customers and co-workers. Spare time is spent eating out, socializing, doing outdoor activities, and playing sports. Kevin currently plays in the Rockingham County Baseball League for Montezuma. Unfortunately, spare time is limited because Kevin works a second job as a waiter and banquet staff for a local country club. He hopes he won't have to work a second job for long. He is currently striving toward a bachelor's degree by taking classes at JMU. Kevin hopes to either advance up the chain at JMU or possibly own his own residential construction or maintenance business someday.

Although Kevin certainly does not miss New York traffic, he does miss family and friends and the hustle and bustle of activity. He insists that New Yorkers "aren't all bad, they just come off a little rough". Kevin is proud of where he comes from and encourages others to visit his home state. Feel free to contact him for sight-seeing tips!



Kevin Lessington



<u>July</u>	
Ken Demastus	7/1
Kevin Landes	7/1
Najat Salihi	7/1
Dimple Moyer	7/2
Donna Moyer	7/2
Marlina Rendon	7/2
Sarah Knupp	7/4
Colton Ringgold	7/4
Nola Smith	7/4
Carol Davis	7/5
Nancy Wright	7/5
Dawn Knight	7/6
Rick Miller	7/6
Jeff Smallwood	7/6
Dean Botkin	7/7
Cindy Rexrode	7/7
Howard Shifflett	7/7
Joyce Wilkins	7/7
Glen Myers	7/8
Susan Hensley	7/9
Mike Bennett	7/11
Chris Dove	7/11
Christine Estep	7/11
Linda Shull	7/11
Carrie Grimsley-Comer	7/12
Nathan Mitchell	7/14
Sandra Casady	7/15
Wes Westfall	7/15
Stephen Good	7/17
Joyce Hensley	7/17
Candie Pence	7/17
Sam McGhee	7/19
Lee Fultz	7/20
Gary Thayer	7/20

Stacey Grimsley	7/21
James Andes	7/22
Holley Mitchell	7/23
Joseph Mosier	7/23
Tamara Ralston	7/24
Greggory Robertson	7/24
Amanda Short	7/25
Dustin Smith	7/26
Nathan Baker	7/27
Debbie Gordon	7/27
Jamie Wyant	7/27
Dennis Dove	7/28
Michael Borrer	7/29
Jack Martin	7/29
Debra Bogan	7/31
Mike Davis	7/31
Michael Hott	7/31
Chris Keagy	7/31
Karen Palmer	7/31
Donald Ritchie	7/31
Teresa Wilkerson	7/31

<u>August</u>	
Sharrie Bennett	8/2
Jack Losh	8/2
Lisa Dunivan	8/3
Amanda Hottinger	8/3
Terry Nesselrodt	8/3
Amy Sager	8/3
Jeremy Rexrode	8/5
Mark Woods	8/5
Rick Dean	8/7
Daniel Smith	8/7
Sherry Reed	8/9
Dennis Kiracofe	8/10
Brian McAvoy	8/10

Dave Meadows	8/10
John Nelson	8/10
Michael Taylor	8/10
Margaret Delawder	8/11
Bob Weaver	8/11
Angela Branson	8/13
Dorothy VanFossen	8/14
Ricky Lucas	8/15
Cathy Miller	8/15
Bob Shanholtz	8/15
Wayne Lantz	8/16
Linda Hedrick	8/17
Emily Hummel	8/17
Jerry Myers	8/17
Timothy Troyer	8/17
Lee Paixao	8/18
Donald Campbell	8/19
Lowell Miller	8/19
Jeffrey Fisher	8/21
Darrel Hensley	8/22
Mark Ringwald	8/22
Travis Bussey	8/24
Ronda Grimsley	8/24
Chris Shifflett	8/24
Franklin Thompson	8/24
Crystal Wright	8/24
Amy Morris	8/26
Sandra Baugher	8/27
Brandi Huttner	8/28
Ronnie Loker	8/29
Brian Clements	8/30
Nathan Leecy	8/30
Candy Arbaugh	8/31
Breeden, Kimberly	8/31
Barbara Myers	8/31

<u>September</u>	
Ryan Campbell	9/1
Cynthia Harris	9/1
Vickie Elyard	9/2
Karl Sours	9/2
Ron Jennings	9/3
Joe Rufo	9/3
Shirley Gill	9/6
Abe Kaufman	9/6
Oakley Hill	9/7
Pat Trissel	9/7
Brian Kelley	9/8
Kelly Sites	9/8
Sean Tulin	9/10
John Ventura	9/11
Kathleen Whetzel	9/12
Dennis Hart	9/13
Susan Leecy	9/13
Chad Churchman	9/14
Barry Smith	9/14
Jennifer Thacker	9/14
Bonnie Barr	9/15
Bob Knott	9/15
Sandra McCray	9/15
Melissa Hedrick	9/16
Abby Reedy	9/16
Nancy Cornwell	9/17
Johnwayne Comer	9/19
Phillip Lowery	9/20
Yolanda Morris	9/20
Mike Blankenship	9/22
Anna Hudick	9/22
Debbie Morris	9/23
Helen Carper	9/24
Matthew Marks	9/24



# FM Birthdays

<u>September, Continued</u>	
Susan May	9/24
Eddie Propst	9/25
Blake Shepherd	9/25
Kim Collier	9/26
Regina Doolan	9/26
Janet Hensley	9/26
Tina Mueller	9/26
Leslie Patrick	9/26
Paul Sherman	9/27
Carolyn Smith	9/27
Carol Rhodes	9/28
Elmer Stoops	9/28
Danny Thomas	9/28
Michael Simmons	9/29
Donna Armstrong	9/30
Louise Hummel	9/30
Stacey Sheffer	9/30
Stephen Wine	9/30



Bird at Newman Lake

By Kathleen Whetzel



New Biotechnology Building, A3B



New flower bed at the intersection of Main St. and Bluestone Drive



New Biotechnology Building, A3B



Power Plant renovation