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Focused On Clients...

Rodney Ratliff: Bland County Public Works Director

by Su Clauson-Wicker

Bland County was carved out of its neighboring counties in Southwest Virginia 150 years ago because residents were tired of traversing rough mountain trails to do business at distant county seats. Traveling Bland's mountains and valleys can still be challenging – just ask Rodney Ratliff, public works director. As one of two people responsible for the 359-square-mile county's water, wastewater, and trash services, he's constantly moving.

"It's a 24/7 job all the time," Ratliff says. "Even on weekends and holidays, I'm controlling water flow by computer."

Ratliff has one maintenance technician, Steve Nelson, whom he calls "my right hand man." Together, they keep the water flowing to Bland citizens with surprisingly few interruptions.

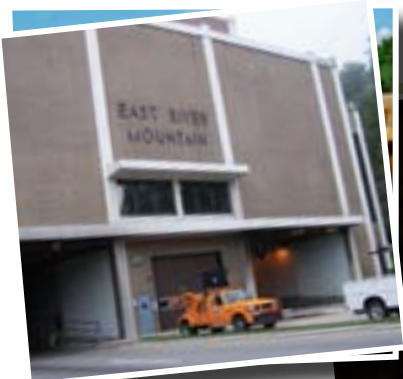
Anderson & Associates is becoming increasingly involved in Bland's water-flow picture. A&A recently won the contract to design the water line through Interstate 77's mile-long East River Mountain Tunnel. The lines bring water the county purchases from West Virginia-American Water Co. to the Bastian and Rocky Gap communities. **pictured below*

A&A is also involved in a preliminary engineering report for a sewer study in Rocky Gap and with plans for a wastewater treatment plant along Crab Orchard Creek in the community of Bland. The \$10-million project, which will be done in three phases, is a priority to clean up local waterways and spur economic development off Interstate 77's Exit 52.

"Businesses are likely to be more interested in coming here when public sewer is available," Ratliff says. Supermarket chains have already indicated that a public sewer system would make a difference in their decision to come into the community.

At present, businesses and homes in Bland rely on small-scale treatment plants and septic systems to handle waste. Phase I plans call for a \$6 million treatment plant and associated lines serving Bland schools, industry, and interstate exit development. Ratliff hopes to receive funding assistance from the state and federal governments.

Ratliff, a native of neighboring Buchanan County, has lived in Bland County for 21 years and been employed by the county since 1997. He holds degrees in civil engineering from Wytheville County College and Bluefield State College. An avid outdoorsman, he likes to fish and hunt and runs 20 head of cattle on his farm. He and his wife Karen have two children: Emily, 10, and Benjamin, 7. &



Features this month

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JMU CISAT A3b Building Under Construction

by Keli Ratcliffe

Focused On Service...

Later this year, James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA will be opening a new, state of the art building on campus. Construction of the CISAT (College of Integrated Science and Technology) A3b building is underway at JMU. The building is the first in a proposed series of buildings that will feature intimate gathering places and gardens reminiscent of the Bluestone Campus, one of the five parts of JMU's Campus. The building is designed to fit in seamlessly on the campus and will have a strong connectivity to existing buildings on all sides. This building will serve as an icon for "biology on display", housing more than a dozen affiliated interdisciplinary groups under one roof.

The A3b building is planned to serve the educational needs of JMU's Biotechnology and related interdisciplinary programs. It will boast 90,000 gross square feet of teaching, research, and technical resource space, while housing special interactive media classrooms and labs devoted to hands-on learning and experience. The new building will contain offices, tutorial rooms for collaboration, lecture rooms, computer labs, seminar rooms, common spaces for informal gathering, study, and related support spaces. The program also includes an animal care facility and research greenhouse.



The project is being designed to achieve LEED Silver Certification. The LEED green building rating system is designed to promote design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being.

Anderson & Associates is proud to have provided schematic, preliminary & working drawings for the civil/site design as subconsultants to EYP Architecture & Engineering and worked with the contractor on the survey construction staking as subconsultants for Skanska USA Building Inc. for this project. Construction on the project will be completed by the middle of this year. For more information please contact Keith Boyd at boyd@andassoc.com.



VRWA's 24th Annual Conference Presentations

by Keli Ratcliffe

Focused On Clients...



A&A will be holding two training sessions at the Virginia Rural Water Association's 24th annual conference. This year, the conference will be held at Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA from April 2-4, 2012. A&A Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer Gary Crouch will be co-presenting the first session entitled "Methods for addressing TSS levels in Wastewater Lagoons" with Taylor Reynolds, Director of Sales for Wastewater Compliance Systems, Inc.

This course will provide an overview of the various technologies and systems for removing Total Suspended Solids (TSS) from wastewater lagoons in order to meet regulatory limits. The presentation will focus on the recent New Castle, VA pilot study to evaluate the efficacy of Bio-Domes in removing TSS and will provide a cost comparison between Bio-Domes and a conventional sand filter system.

The second session, "3D Scanning Services for Utilities" will be presented by Ronnie Shelor and Joey Conrad. The presentation will include a demonstration of our laser scanning, data collection, and virtual surveying capabilities. Ronnie and Joey will show how the scanner has been used in utility applications including the scanning of water pump stations in Rural Retreat, VA and the City of Roanoke, VA for the upgrade of electrical systems and new pump lines. &

Jason Williams, PE, SIT: A&A Project Manager

by Keli Ratcliffe

Focused On Employees...

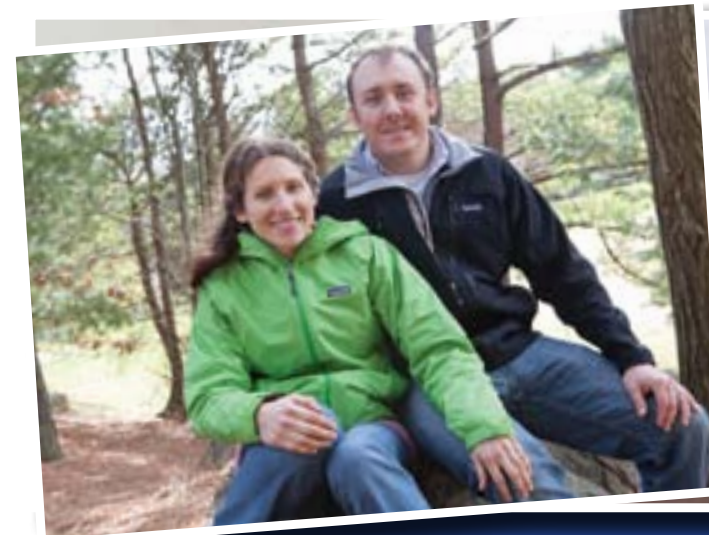
Jason Williams decided at an early age that if careers in baseball or fishing fell through, he wanted to become an engineer. As a student in Floyd, VA, he excelled at math and enjoyed building trades classes and the outdoors. He began attending Virginia Tech without knowing what type of engineering work he should pursue, but the summer before his sophomore year he was hired by a local civil engineering/surveying firm in Roanoke. By the end of that summer, Jason knew that civil engineering was for him.

While at VT, Jason played baseball for the Hokies, but wanting more playing time, he transferred to Bluefield State College. He not only played baseball for two seasons, but was also Team Captain, and earned an AS in General Business before transferring back to Virginia Tech to finish up his BS in Civil Engineering.

After graduation and with two college degrees in tow, Jason moved to Northern Virginia to snatch up the many learning opportunities available for new engineering grads in the fast-paced area. During the housing boom he was exposed to a variety of different types of projects including stormwater, residential, roads, surveying, and permitting, but Jason saw the writing on the wall, and realized that housing development was declining. He transitioned from a local development engineering firm to a global consulting firm and began to focus on military and railroad projects, most notably serving as Project Civil Engineer and Superintendent for a major construction project at Andrew's Air Force Base in Maryland (home of Air Force One).

In 2010, Jason and his wife Emily moved to Blacksburg. The couple wanted to get away from the urban life and Emily was looking for a university to pursue graduate studies. The opportunity to come work for A&A in Blacksburg offered a perfect fit. Jason began working at A&A in April 2010, and was recently promoted to Project Manager in the Transportation Department. He has worked on variety of transportation projects, but his main focus is on railroad projects. Jason is excited about continuing to develop A&A's service to railroad clients and to grow in the PM role at A&A.

He and Emily enjoy exploring the many trails and outdoor activities available in the area with their dog Lexi. Jason is also a member of several conservation organizations and enjoys fly fishing and hunting. &





*Focused on Service,
Focused on You*

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there."

-Lewis Carroll

Save a tree! To receive this newsletter online please send a note to the editor at editor@andassoc.com

Want to read the Ampersand on your mobile device? Go to news.andassoc.com!

We're Working For

Bland County, VA - Providing engineering services for a site evaluation of a 60-acre tract intended for the development of a regional industrial/commerce park for the Bland County Economic Development Authority.

City of Galax, VA - Providing professional engineering services on an as-needed basis under a term contract until 2017.

Smyth County, VA - Providing professional engineering on an as-needed basis under a three-year term contract.

Augusta County, VA - Providing transportation engineering services on an as-needed basis under a term contract.

Radford University, Radford VA - Providing professional engineering and surveying services for design and construction administration for a new 115,000 square foot Center for the Sciences Building at Radford University. A&A is providing these services as a sub-consultant for EYP Architecture and Engineering.

Welcome

Evelyn Rudisill, HR Manager

Congrats!

Congratulations to **Jason Williams, PE, SIT** on his promotion to Project Manager on the Transportation Team.

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