



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

<http://www.crc.siu.edu/naslr.htm>

April 2008

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Lou Neuman

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

What does Spring mean to you? Being involved in reclamation, it probably means many different things to you. From this reclamationist's standpoint, this is what SPRING means:

S = Sprouting. After the long winter, isn't it great that the trees and shrubs are sprouting again? As the new leaves come out, it appears that the forest comes alive. Life in the forest seems to depend on the new shoots. The rabbits and many other herbivores seem to depend upon the new growth for their survival. The owl, fox, and other predators in turn depend upon the herbivores for their survival. With the young being born, it seems that the life cycle begins in the spring.

P = Planning. What will you be doing for the next few months or for the year? What equipment or accouterments will you be purchasing? Have you allocated the time, manpower, and dollars to get the jobs done? Do you have an alternative in case the original plan fails? Have you made plans to attend the next NASLR meeting?

R = Reclaiming. Isn't it great to reclaim the land? You possess the knowledge and skills to evaluate a reclamation plan. You have the expertise to provide technical guidance in getting the job done in a timely and efficient manner. You are the one that staff/industry/public depends upon. You are the one that is shaping the land for generations. You are the one making sure the right species are being planted in the right location at the right time.

I = Inspections. Who does not enjoy getting out in the field in the spring? The temperatures are great, the days are getting longer, and wildlife is abundant. It is a welcome relief from the winter. It is easy to understand how one can get "spring fever." The inspection is the verification that the operation is working properly or improperly. As an inspector, you get the opportunity to see how things actually work out in the field. In my opinion, the inspection is the most enjoyable aspect of being a reclamationist.

N = New. Are you conversant on the new technology or the latest buzz words? Are your skills up to date? Can you interface your GPS (global positioning system) with your PC (personal computer) and digital camera? Can you use a

turbidity meter? Are you learning new ways to present the new technology to your employer or client? Are you taking continuing education classes? Are you using the new/improved varieties of plants? Have you examined new or alternative "green" ways of doing things?

G = Grading. Are your earthmoving activities in progress? For areas of our country where cold temperatures, frozen ground, and snow make grading impracticable, now is the time to get the job done. With proper planning and maintenance, your equipment should be ready to go. In my opinion, spring is not the time for equipment overhauls. Spring is the time for the equipment to be operating. It has also been my experience that earthmoving is the most expensive part of reclamation, so earthmoving activities should be properly planned. Once the land is graded in many parts of the county, it may retain that shape for many years.

The next newsletter will feature articles from Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Tennessee, Mississippi and New York.. Deadline for copy to be received at the Coal Research Center office is June 30, 2008.

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Anna Harrington
Coal Research Center

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind NASLR members of the award programs of the organization. Details and forms can be found at <http://www.crc.siu.edu/naslr.htm>. Due to some confusion with the due dates for nominations, the deadlines for NASLR Reclamation Award and the Dean Spindler Reclamationist of the Year Award have been extended until June 1, 2008. Please send nomination packages to Anna Harrington at the Coal Research Center, 405 West Grand Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901-4623 or electronically to aharrin@siu.edu. Take the time to recognize someone in your state for their efforts.

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PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE COLUMN

Lou Neuman

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

You won't want to miss this year's annual NASLR conference to be held at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, which is about an hour east of Pittsburgh.

Conference planners in Pennsylvania have been busy putting together an exciting field trip that will include the Flight 93 (9-11) crash site, limestone underground mines, coal mines, passive AMD treatment facilities, and a lunch stop at the falls in beautiful Ohiopyle State Park. In addition to the annual awards banquet, we're planning a backyard barbecue following the field trip. We are currently soliciting presenters and conference sponsors, so if you're able to do either, please either call me (Lou Neuman at 850/488-8217) or the conference organizer (Mike Smith at 814-342-8200). Seven Springs is a beautiful resort with lots to do including hiking, fishing, golf, and swimming. Nearby, there are many historical sites, areas of interest, and the recently completed Youghiogeny Bike Trail. A spouse tour is tentatively planned to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Fort Necessity Battlefield National Park. As more conference information becomes available, it will be posted on Pennsylvania DEP web site at:

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/BMR/conference/2008_NASLR_conference.htm

President's note: An editor once told me that a president does not give news information in his column. I have been trying to adhere to that advice since most of the conference work is being done by Mike Smith, Tammy Cree, and other Pennsylvania staff. I had been asked, however, to provide the above information to you by the conference organizers.

Call for Paper or Presentations 36th Annual Conference National Association of State Land Reclamationists

**September 14-17, 2008
Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion
Pennsylvania**

Suggested technical presentations include coal and noncoal reclamation and revegetation, reforestation of mined lands, remining, surface water management on mine lands, stream reconstruction, wildlife resource enhancement, community involvement in reclamation planning, resolving land use conflicts, steep slope reclamation, use of coal ash and biosolids for reclamation and emerging reclamation technologies. Other topics are also welcome.

Submit abstracts or a description of presentation by May 31 to Michael Smith, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at Michaesmit@state.pa.us or call at 814-342-8200. Presentations accepted must be presented at annual meeting (MS Power Point preferred).

Poster presentations and exhibitor space is also available. If you are interested in this format, please contact Michael Smith for further information.

The conference will also include a field trip to several interesting reclamation sites, active mining operations and AMD treatment projects in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. For more information on the conference please go to:

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