



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

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

July 2009

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Floyd Williams*  
North Carolina Department  
of Environment & Natural Resources

Hello to all:

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (September 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>) is almost here. We will be missing a few folks that usually attend the Annual Conferences, but as we all know, time changes things. A few have retired and a number of others will not be able to attend this year's Conference due to budget issues in their respective states.

For those of you who plan on attending this year's Conference, please spend some time looking over the CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND POLICES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS and be prepared to discuss, during the business meeting, changes or additions that you would be interested in. Also, remember that we will be discussing the Reclamation Certification Program.

In North Carolina, we have only seen a slight decrease in the number of applications for new permits and modifications for mining permits. I would like to hear from other states during the Annual Conference regarding how the economy has affected your program.

Thanks to all of you that have participated in a number of conference calls to discuss the upcoming Conference. I feel the calls have been very productive.

Thanks again to Bruce Ragon for his professional work in putting this year's Conference together.

Take care and have a safe trip and I will see you in Gatlinburg.

## 37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

SEPTEMBER 20 – 23, 2009  
PARK VISTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE  
CENTER  
GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE

Plans for the annual meeting in Gatlinburg are complete. We are only awaiting final numbers to confirm the banquet and transportation for the field trip. We realize that everyone's budgets are tight but the rates being offered will allow you to visit this beautiful setting for far less expense than you would normally incur. Please register as soon as possible so we can confirm our attendance numbers. All of the needed information is available either through the NASLR home page or at: <http://tn.gov/environment/naslr/>.

Following is the event schedule including topics to be presented at the technical sessions:

### NASLR 2009 – EVENT SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, September 20, 2009

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Registration  
Hospitality Suite open

#### Monday, September 21, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
Welcome – Paul Schmierbach, TDEC

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.  
The Geology of Tennessee – Pete Lemiszki, TDEC

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Break

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Geomorphic Stream Restoration of an Unnamed Tributary to Big Brush Creek at a Reclaimed Surface Coal Mine in Sequatchie Co., Tennessee – Tim Slone, IRTEC

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Development of Blackside Dace Protection and Enhancement Plans - Piper Roby, Copperhead Environmental Consulting

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Reintroduction of Native Fish Species to the Pigeon River – Jonathan Burr, TDEC

1:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

AML Reclamation on the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area – Tim Eagle, TDEC

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Reclamation of the Copper Basin in Southeast Tennessee – Ben Faulkner, Glenn Springs Holding Co.

3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Fly Ash Spill at TVA's Kingston Steam Plant – Paul Schmierbach, TDEC

5:00 p.m.

Hospitality Suite open

## **Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Water Quality Changes Over Time in Above-Drainage Upper Freeport and Pittsburgh Coal Mines in West Virginia – Ben Mack, W. Va. Water Research Institute

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

X-Ray Fluorescence – Ken Faulk; Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Forestry Reclamation – Vic Davis, OSM

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

American Chestnut Breeding and Plantings on Zeb Mountain – Sam McInturff, American Chestnut Foundation

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NASLR Business Meeting

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Reception

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet / Guest Speaker - Sam Venable, Local Columnist and Author  
Hospitality Suite open

## **Wednesday, September 23, 2009**

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Field Trip

The field trip will travel northeast out of Gatlinburg to Newport Sand and Gravel located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. At this site, on the banks of the Pigeon River, alluvial and colluvial materials are excavated and processed into various products from landscaping stone to masonry sand. The next leg of the trip will head north into the Ridge and Valley Province to Short Mountain Silica where pure white sands with a very high SiO<sub>2</sub> content are mined and processed for specialized uses. Lunch will be provided at this site. The final leg will traverse southwest back into the foothills at Sevierville to a Vulcan Construction Materials, LP, limestone quarry that exists in the midst of one of the most populous and fastest growing areas in Tennessee.

4:30 p.m.

Hospitality Suite open

Reservations for the Park Vista may be made by calling 865-436-9211 or toll free at 1-800-421-7275. Reservations by e-mail may be made at [reservations@parkvista.com](mailto:reservations@parkvista.com). You must reference the National Association of State Land Reclamationists in order to receive the conference rate of \$70 per night.

Please register as quickly as possible when the information is available so that that we can finalize our head count for the banquet and field trip.

As always, if you have any questions you may contact me at: [bruce.ragon@tn.gov](mailto:bruce.ragon@tn.gov) or (865) 594-5547. See you in September.

The next newsletter will feature articles from Illinois, Kansas, Ontario, Oregon, and South Carolina. Deadline for copy to be received at the Coal Research Center office is September 30, 2009.

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## STATE NEWS/ACTIVITIES

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### FLORIDA

*Lou Neuman*

#### Florida Department of Environmental Protection

There are many items that might be of interest to other NASLR members but I will only list five.

**PERMIT FEES.** Fees for Environmental Resource Permits (ERP's) processed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection increased April 21, 2009. We do not process mining permits. We issue permits for the management and storage of surface waters. The ERP's fees below are based on work in on or over wetlands or other surface waters. The shortened version of the fee schedule for ERP's are as follows:

Greater than or equal to 100 acres: \$14,020

Less than 100 acres but greater than or equal to 50 acres: \$11,220

Less than 50 acres but greater than or equal to 10 acres: \$9,120

Less than 10 acres but greater than or equal to 5 acres: \$7,710

Less than 5 acres but greater than or equal to 2 acres: \$5,610

Less than 2 acres but greater than or equal to 1 acre: \$4,210

Less than 1 acre: \$3,510

Major modification fees have the same fees as a new permit

Minor modification fee: \$420

A complete list of fees can be found in Chapter 62-4, Florida Administrative Code.

**ERP for Northwest Florida.** There are five water management districts in Florida. With the exception of the panhandle of Florida, ERPs have been in place for over 10 years in the other four districts. Phase I of the ERP rule is in effect in northwest Florida. At this writing, full implementation of ERP rules (Phase II) in northwest Florida has not been approved.

**Limerock Mining in Miami-Dade.** In the Miami-Dade area (think South Florida-Miami area for out-of-staters), there is a large amount of limestone. The limestone is close to the surface. Extraction of the limestone results

in the formation of lake(s). This area is also known as the Lake Belt. The mining industry has proposed an expansion of mines in this area. U.S. District Judge William Hoeweler reinstated an earlier overturned order that halted mining in hundreds of acres surrounding a well field that supplies drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently sent a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) recommending denying nine requests for expansion into wetlands bordering Everglades National Park based on loss of wildlife habitat, drainage of adjacent marshes, and potential degradation of water quality. The EPA and USACOE are discussing the concerns with the industry. **Sand and Limestone.** Sand and limestone are two major resources extracted in Florida. These resources are used in vast quantities in the construction industry. With the housing industry in a slump, the demand for the sand and limestone also dropped. Due to the economic downturn in the economy, some mines have decreased the shifts worked, the mining rate has slowed down, and some mines have ceased or nearly ceased operations. Some ERP applications for projects involving mining operations have also been withdrawn. Staff in the nonphosphate section of Bureau of Mining and Minerals Regulation is still overloaded with applications received from the past few years and continues to process modifications for existing permits.

**Attendance at NASLR.** I will not be able to attend the upcoming NASLR meeting. To give you an idea of what is occurring here, a main newspaper headline last week was about 158 state workers being laid off. The article indicated these were not vacant positions but filled positions. Fortunately, the positions did not involve staff from this Bureau. State workers again received no general raise this year. This is the third year without raises. A 2.5 pay cut was proposed for state workers making over \$50,000, but that was vetoed. Travel restrictions with extra scrutiny for out-of-state trips are still in place. All travel must be deemed critical to the mission of the agency. While I will not be physically present at the meeting, my thoughts will be with you. I wish you a safe and productive meeting.

#### Florida Dam Owner Workshop

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) are offering a special training event for Florida dam owners and operators in conjunction with the ASDSO Annual Conference in Hollywood, Florida. The Florida Dam Owner Workshop, covering dam safety, operation and maintenance, as well as other practical applications, will be held on September 29-30, 2009. For further information, please contact FDEP at 850-488-8217 or the ASDSO at 859-257-5140 or go to [www.damsafety.org](http://www.damsafety.org).

# REGISTRATION FORM

## 2009 NASLR CONFERENCE

Park Vista Hotel and Conference Center – Gatlinburg, TN  
September 20 – 23, 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred name for name tag (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

State / Organization / Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse / Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fees:** Please indicate the number of persons that will participate in each activity to assist in planning.

**Number      Fee**

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$150.00      Delegate Registration

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100.00      Spouse / Guest Registration

\_\_\_\_\_      Banquet (Included in Registration Fee)

\_\_\_\_\_      Field Trip (Included in Registration Fee)

**Total Fees** \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Make checks payable to NASLR and mail to:

NASLR  
c/o Coal Research Center  
405 West Grand, mc4623  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
ATTN: Anna Caswell

If you have items you wish to be included on the agenda for the annual business meeting, please attach a separate sheet listing the topic(s). Members should also be prepared to present a brief report on their state's mining/reclamation programs at the business meeting.

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