



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

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

April 2009

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Floyd Williams
North Carolina Department
of Environment & Natural Resources

Hello to all:

I know all of us are looking forward to the 37th Annual Conference to be held at the Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on September 20th through the 23rd, 2009.

During the 2009 Annual Conference Business Meeting please be prepared to discuss changes or additions to the CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND POLICES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS. You can download a copy of the document from NASLR's web page. Please spend adequate time reviewing the document and be prepared to discuss any changes or additions you would like to have considered.

Many states continue to face a challenging fiscal crisis which has resulted in furloughs and other belt-tightening actions. The budget shortfall in North Carolina for the current fiscal year is predicted to exceed \$3 billion. At this time, the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management has frozen all vacant positions and travel outside the State. I hope that the economy will improve in the near future and all of us will be able to attend the Annual Conference this year.

Due to the economy, North Carolina has had a significant increase in reclamation surety bond cancellations which, in many cases, has resulted in bond forfeiture proceedings to get mine sites adequately reclaimed. I am sure that other states are facing similar problems.

I have mailed a number of potential sponsor letters that Bruce Ragon, conference organizer, has drafted. If any of you can think of someone that would be a potential sponsor, please let us know and we will send a letter to them. Thanks again to Bruce for his hard work on putting together this year's conference. Thanks Bruce!

I look forward to seeing you at the 37th Annual Conference in Gatlinburg.

37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

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

Plans are being finalized for the 2009 NASLR Conference. The event schedule is as follows:

Sunday, September 20, 2009

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

Monday, September 21, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Technical Sessions
- 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Technical Sessions
- 5:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Technical Sessions
- 11:30 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/Speaker
- 9:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Field Trip
- 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. You must reference the National Association of State Land Reclamationists in order to receive the conference rate of \$70 per night.

The web site with NASLR member registration information will be up very soon. 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.

If you need additional information in the interim, please feel free to contact Bruce Ragon at 865-594-5547 or bruce.ragon@tn.gov

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, 2009.

Notes from the field: Mine in my back yard, Please!

Dean Spindler
Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals

One of the hardest issues for any regulatory agency and the mining industry is interacting with the public on mining applications. The dreaded public hearing sends shivers down many people's spines. For those coal folks, take advantage of the OSM Coalfield Communications class; it's good. As with the famous expression of Tip O'Neill, "All politics is Local", with few exceptions "All Mining is Local" should be a comparable quote. I Googled the phrase and nothing came up, so if it catches on, I just made it up. Why is this important? Public hearings are requested for a variety of reasons which I will cover in this article.

Past practices: A number of years ago we held a public hearing for a new quarry just a few miles from the company's old one which was almost mined out. This site had many of the common issues, road traffic, close to a school, dust, mud on the road, blasting, fencing, and well damage. Many of these issues are not regulated by us, but were the topics of the hearing. Almost no one was interested in the reclamation plan which was what we actually regulated.

In this case, the company chose to make a presentation of their plans. This was a wise choice, in my opinion. The company showed their drawings for a well landscaped entrance, tire washers, mowed perimeter berms, and fencing. The drawings were very impressive. One astute citizen came prepared with pictures of the old site. For many, many years that well landscaped entrance, perimeter berms had been neglected. The fencing had fallen down or was missing sections. The tire washers were not routinely used. In addition, the company spokesman stated that rock trucks would always tarped when they left the site. The citizens knew better. Even though the company may not be responsible for the truck once it leaves the site, a driver who gets a cracked windshield immediately thinks of the quarry first. How did that hearing go? To sum up the consensus of the public: "Your past site tells us what to expect in the future". Most of us have had a neighbor that we cherished the day they told you they were moving. Conversely, we have had the day we dreaded when the good

neighbor told us they were moving and you were unsure who you'd get next.

I was here first: This goes hand-in-hand with past practices. We have all heard this, particularly at quarries that were once remote but the subdivisions moved in around them. The issue is, or should be, relevant to zoning issues, but the fact is many people just don't check out the surrounding area when buying a home. Being a good neighbor helps a bit.

First impressions: I mentioned the importance of the entrance and maintaining it. Most of us are familiar with the NSSGA About Face program. This was part of that program which had excellent results. For those who don't participate or most of the coal mines I go to, I would recommend this. Many years ago I was invited to give a talk to a group of mine superintendents for a large aggregate company. I spoke about corporate/government relations. Besides the usual "follow the regulations and ask first" stuff, I focused on how our job was easier at sites with good community relations. One topic was the public's first impression and how helpful it was that their company participated in About Face. I showed pictures of non-participating sites with piles of tires, concrete with rebar, milled asphalt, and the mine equipment graveyard all visible from the public road.

Lasting impressions; Land Agents: From my experience, I will put land agents right up there with used car salesmen. The worst disservice a land agent can do both to the regulatory agency and the company is either to lie or tell a half truth to land owners when leasing their property or buying it with a buyback option. I am sure many of us have plenty of stories dealing with landowners who were promised this or that on issues which are either not regulated or unrealistic when it comes to reclamation. All unkept promises, real or imagined, end up at the public hearing.

Blasting: We all are aware of the big difference between feeling a blast and having damage from a blast. People will assume if they can feel the blast it must be causing damage. This is the most common public hearing comment. If the company makes a presentation, it does no one any good to say you will rarely feel it. Admit it to be nuisance which will probably happen every afternoon or whatever schedule the site is on.

The Dreaded Public Hearing: Every state has its own kind of hearing. Some only take comments from the public on a pending application. Some are intended to be restricted to one issue: a reclamation plan, road, or water issue. Others are held to defend an issued permit decision. Regardless of the intent or intended format of the hearing, the public will come intending to ask questions and get responses on some or all of the above issues.

Probably the biggest reason why citizens without a specific agenda come to hearings is fear of change. Few people like change. For urban and suburban people, it's the new shopping center down the street and all its traffic. For more rural areas, mining means truck traffic, noise, and land that will look different after reclamation. This is why it is imperative, required or not, for the applicant to make a presentation as to

Coal, Coffee, and the Cerulean Warbler

Pat Angel

U.S. Office of Surface Mining

who they are, what they plan to do, how long they plan to be active, what are the anticipated impacts to the neighbors, how are they going to minimize the impacts, and to give the name of a person to contact if they have a question or problem. Many of us also forget that mining operations or reclamation maps are pretty alien to the general public. We can visualize what the maps mean on the ground. If the applicant has the resources, a landscape-type drawing is very helpful.

Inflammatory words: There are certain words that are classified as emotional vs. intellectual words. Some common ones include: toxic chemicals, heavy metals, blast, and violate. These and many other words evoke a negative emotional response for which there is little recourse. The words themselves are so open-ended they are hard to define. What exactly is a toxic chemical? Every chemical can be toxic at the right concentration. The advertising industry has spent years developing positive emotional words. I even found a web site offering public interest groups their service to develop emotional words to promote their causes. The best response on these is to simply state there are regulatory standards for water quality, blasting, and chronic violators.

I don't have the answer to your question: Every speaker at a public meeting worries about not knowing the answer to a question. If you respond with a half truth or simply stumble around, it usually portrays someone hiding something, rather than just not being smart enough to the audience. It is best that you either defer to another staff member present, or simply get their name and promise to get back to them promptly. Most audiences will be comfortable with the honesty.

Credibility: "I'm from the government and I am here to help and protect you" ranks right up there with "This won't hurt a bit". Human nature is to dismiss the importance of someone's job they are not familiar with it. Additionally, the general public often has pre-conceived notions about state employees based on press coverage of infamous public officials. We have all heard the "**You people** are in cahoots with the mine" comment at the public hearing. It's hard not to take this personally. Some helpful practices are to start hearings with an introduction of the staff, stating who they are, their responsibilities, and their professional experience and credentials. Another thing to note is how staff conducts themselves. In a crowd, most of us tend to circulate with people we know. In most cases, regulators are more familiar with the industry people and much less so with the general public. As a result, we tend to mingle more with industry before and after meetings. In the public's eyes, this familiarity may imply a bias. This perception becomes their reality. It is important to work both sides of the crowd equally to avoid this issue.

The point of this commentary is that public hearings are a necessary part of our process. They are rarely the fun part of our job. Nevertheless, we can make them less painful and more informative to help the public understand the process. It is unrealistic to convince everyone in the audience that 'mine' is not a four letter word, but at least 'reclamation' has lots of letters. ☺

The Cerulean Warbler is a small migratory songbird that breeds in mature deciduous forests of eastern North America, migrates across the Gulf of Mexico and through Central America, and winters in evergreen forests of the northern Andes Mountains in South America. Habitat loss and degradation across all these areas have contributed to Cerulean Warbler population declines of about 3% per year over the last 40 years. A remarkable overlap occurs between Cerulean Warbler habitat and existing areas of Appalachian coal and Andean coffee production.



Coal industry representatives from Appalachia and Colombian coffee officials met with Cerulean Warbler conservationists on April 14, 2009 in Charleston, West Virginia to discuss proactive conservation activities for Cerulean Warblers across North and South America.

The primary purpose of the Coal-Coffee-Cerulean meeting was to explore the possibility of a partnership that links the two industries with the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group (CWTG). The CWTG is made up of representatives of government agencies, bird conservation groups, researchers, and individuals working to stop the population decline of the Cerulean Warbler and other neotropical migratory song birds.

The participants discussed ways to reverse population declines of Cerulean Warblers and reduce the likelihood of listing the Cerulean Warbler under the Endangered Species Act by strategically conserving/restoring forest habitat on breeding and non-breeding grounds in a coordinated manner and improving ecosystem functions in these areas. Shade-grown agriculture in South America and reclaiming surface mines lands back to functional native hardwood forests by using the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA) in North America were the strategies discussed by conference attendees.

The FRA is a method for reclaiming coal-mined land to forest under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The FRA is based on knowledge gained from both scientific research and experience. The FRA can achieve cost effective regulatory compliance for coal operators while creating

productive forests that generate value for their owners and provide watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and other environmental services.

The FRA is being actively promoted across the seven coal states of the eastern US, by the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI). ARRI was joined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Bird Conservancy in hosting the Coal, Coffee, and Cerulean Warbler Conference in Charleston.

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STATE NEWS/ACTIVITIES

WEST VIRGINIA

News from the Mountain State

Joe Hager

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

For those of you who don't know, Rocky Parsons retired from the Department of Environmental Protection last fall and is living the good life in beautiful Summers County in southeastern West Virginia. Former NASLR President Mike Kromer has taken a position with the WVDEP's Office of Explosives and Blasting.

Effective this past January 1st, all permit applications submitted to the WVDEP's Office of Mining and Reclamation were required to be electronic. To date, there have been a few minor glitches in the process most of which were program compatibility issues. Mine Inspectors in one field office are also testing an electronic system that downloads inspection reports via wireless internet connections to the agency's main frame immediately.

During the last half of 2008, the DEP's Hydrologic Protection Unit conducted a statewide review of electronic Daily Monitoring Reports submitted between July 2006 and March 2008 to identifying non-compliances. As a result, several major settlements were reached between the DEP and coal companies resulting in a considerable resource bank designated specifically for stream restoration projects throughout the state.

Tough economic times, causing a reduction in the demand for steel and electricity, are affecting mining activities in West Virginia as in other coal producing states. The international and domestic demand for metallurgical and steam coal has resulted in several large mining operations in southern West Virginia to temporarily suspend their operations.

A more far-reaching issue affecting surface mining in West Virginia is the ongoing Federal Court valley fill litigation. Presently, the United States Army Corp of Engineers is reevaluating scores of 404 permits for valley fills that were

pending issuance. The Environmental Protection Agency is reviewing the methods that the USACE uses to evaluate valley fill permit applications and grant approvals.

The West Virginia DEP recently lost its Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Coordinator, Scott Eggerud, to the Office of Surface Mining. Scott will be actively involved with OSM's continued development and expansion of the hardwood reforestation program that is being promoted using techniques developed by the ARRI.

The Office of Surface Mining is presently conducting a special study of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's "Coal Mine Dam Safety Program" and the impoundment beak through potential evaluation procedures. Surface Mine Inspectors in West Virginia are responsible for inspecting and enforcing the "CMDS Program".

The Department of Environmental Protection has partnered with the West Virginia State Health Department and the Office of Surface Mining in a joint study evaluating environmental impacts of underground injection of coal mine waste as it relates to groundwater migration and possible contamination of groundwater resources.

West Virginia is proud to be home to mining facilities which claimed three of the eight National Awards for Excellence in Surface Mining presented by the Office of Surface Mining in 2008. Two of the award winners were International Coal Group's Birch River Complex in Webster County and Massey Energy's Road Fork Development Surface Mine, in Logan County. The third winner was Arch Coal's "Coal-Mac Inc., West Virginia" that earned the Gold Good Neighbor Award for their community partnerships in Logan and Mingo Counties.

2008 will be remembered for several accomplishments in the environmental field and at the same time providing energy to the world. 2009 will pose challenges that can be viewed as opportunities for creativity and continued success.

VIRGINIA

The Fifth Time is a Charm for Virginia's Arbor Day

Jon Lawson, Ecologist

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mined Land Reclamation

Virginia's Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy held its first Arbor Day Celebration in 2005 in an effort to spotlight Virginia's multi-agency and industry efforts to promote and draw public attention to the Forestry Reclamation Approach under the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI). That event, and the four that followed, have done just that, while also educating public school students about the benefits of forestry reclamation on active and abandoned coal mines. To date, Virginia Arbor Day events have reached nearly 700 students who have helped plant over 5,000 trees. The following story also appeared in the ARRI Newsletter.

On April 3rd, Virginia held its 5th Annual Arbor Day Celebration on TECO-Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company's Bearwallow Surface Mine. The theme of the event was *Trees for Wildlife* and even Mother Nature could not dissuade the record attendance level for this event. Despite howling winds and light showers, nearly 450 people came out to plant hardwoods on Virginia's foremost fully Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA) permit. The record setting attendance included every sixth-grade student from Buchanan County Public Schools, the Mountain Mission Private School, the Home School Association of Buchanan County, and a visit from the sixth graders from Majestic Knox Elementary School located just across the state line in Kentucky, for a grand total of 350 students. The agenda included a docket of dignified speakers, then tree planting, educational stations, and of course a hamburger and hot dog lunch. Needless to say a great time was had by all.



Howling winds and light showers notwithstanding, students worked together in teams to plant a variety of native hardwood trees, including several experimental backcrossed chestnut tree seedlings provided by the American Chestnut Foundation.



VA and KY public school students fan out to plant over 1,000 tree seedlings on Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company's Bearwallow Surface mine in Buchanan County, VA, during the "Trees for Wildlife" Arbor Day Celebration.

The educational stations and tree planting species selected were based around the *Trees for Wildlife* theme. Over 1,000 tree seedlings were planted on the regraded areas of the site. Bob Paris, geneticist from The American Chestnut Foundation, led one of the educational stations and also donated several backcrossed chestnut seedlings to be planted during the event. This marked the first introduction of backcrossed seedlings onto an active Virginia surface mine permit. In the other two stations representatives from Virginia's Division of Mined Land Reclamation spoke to the students about the Forestry Reclamation Approach and the wildlife that is known to inhabit the coalfields of Southwest Virginia and how they benefit from reforestation and early succession habitat.

One might think it is difficult to trump an event of this magnitude and that the biggest story of Virginia's Arbor Day is the record attendance, however, you would be mistaken. The record attendance is a side note, at least to one Buchanan County family. Gene Boyd is the mine site superintendent on Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company's Bearwallow site where the event was held.

The Bearwallow surface mine has been a pioneer in Virginia's implementation of the science behind the Forestry Reclamation Approach and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative's (ARRI) goals. Mr. Boyd has been there from the beginning overseeing the operation, including providing on-the-ground direction to keep the mine's soil from being over-compacted and making sure the post-mining land use of forest land is achieved. For this reason, he was selected to receive at the event Virginia's ARRI Award and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy ARRI Reclamationist of the Year award for his excellent work. He was presented his awards by Jackie Davis, VA Division of Mined Land Reclamation Director. To add to the presentation, Gene's wife Lisa is a teacher and his son is a sixth grade student in Buchanan County. They were in attendance and very proud of the recognition for Gene's hard work and dedication to the reforestation of mined land in Virginia.



DMLR Director Jack Davis presents Gene Boyd, Clintwood Elkhorn Mining, with ARRI Individual Award.

Another spin on this year's event was the student art contest sponsored by the Virginia Mining Association, held to create



CALL FOR PAPERS

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

September 20 – 23, 2009

Gatlinburg, Tennessee

THEME: WATER ISSUES IN MINING AND RECLAMATION PROCESSES

The Planning Committee is soliciting the submission of abstracts for presentations to be made during the technical sessions of NASLR's annual meeting. Major areas of consideration include, but are not limited to:

- Surface and Groundwater Hydrologic Considerations
- Stream Relocation and Restoration
- Wetland Identification, Mitigation, and Creation
- Acid Mine Drainage Avoidance and Treatment
- Water Treatment Technologies and Advances
- Stormwater Management Techniques
- Land Forming and Vegetative Considerations in Restoring Hydrologic Balance
- Long Term Water Treatment and Monitoring Systems
- Protection and Re-establishment of Aquatic Biological Communities
- Effects of Soil Amendments on Water Quality

Other topics open for consideration can include:

- Enhancement of Post-Mining Natural Resource Value (i.e. Wildlife, Fisheries, etc.)
- Material Handling (i.e. End-Dump vs. Compaction, Slope Stability, etc.)
- Controlling Invasive Species
- Utilization of Native Plant Species
- Unique or Creative Reclamation Projects

Abstracts must be submitted by **May 1, 2009**. Please forward to:

Bruce Ragon
TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921

-or-

bruce.ragon@state.tn.us

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS
SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2009
PARK VISTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
GATLINBURG, TN

The 37th annual meeting of the National Association of State Land Reclamationists

The 2009 annual meeting of the NASLR will be held September 20-23 at the Park Vista Hotel and Conference Center located in the heart of the Smoky Mountains and adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Now is the time to register in order to ensure your spot!

Registration: Please complete the registration form and mail it, along with a check for the required amount to Anna Caswell, NASLR Secretary/Treasurer. Prompt registration will help us plan for all aspects of the conference. The registration fee includes all technical sessions, the annual banquet, field trip (with lunch) and breakfast on Monday and Tuesday.

Hotel: The Park Vista is offering the CONUS rate of \$70.00 per night to conference attendees. Please contact the hotel no later than **Friday, August 21, 2009**, and reference the NASLR conference in order to ensure that you receive the conference rate. The Park Vista's phone numbers are: 1-800-421-7275 or (865) 436-9211. Reservations may also be made by e-mail to: reservations@parkvista.com

Directions:

From the east (Asheville): Take I-40 W to exit 435 (Newport/Gatlinburg). Turn left on US 321 S and follow to junction with US 441 in Gatlinburg (three turns – follow 321 S / Gatlinburg signs). Turn left on US 441 S. Turn left at traffic light #8 (Airport Road). At three-way stop, bear left (uphill) into Park Vista Hotel entrance. (Approximate travel time from interstate exit is 1 hour).

From the west (Nashville): Take I-40 E to exit 407 (Gatlinburg/Sevierville/Pigeon Forge). Turn right on TN Hwy 66 S. Continue through Sevierville (road becomes US 441 S). Follow US 441 S through Pigeon Forge to Gatlinburg. Turn left at traffic light #8 (Airport Road). At three-way stop, bear left (uphill) into Park Vista Hotel entrance. (Approximate travel time from interstate exit is 1 hour).

From the north: From I-81 S: take I-40 E. Get off at exit 435 (Newport/Gatlinburg). Turn right on US 321 S and follow the directions (from the east) given above. **From I-75 S:** take I-40 E and follow directions (from the west) given above.

From the south: Take I-75 N to I-40 E and follow the directions (from the west) given above.

From Knoxville airport (McGhee Tyson): Take US 129 S (Maryville). Immediately get into left lane and follow "TO N 411, N 321" signs to Maryville. Bear left onto US 321 N. At Townsend, (approximately 20 miles) turn left at traffic light to stay on US 321 N. At Pigeon Forge (approximately 15 miles) turn right on US 441 S. Follow US 441 S to Gatlinburg. Turn left at traffic light #8 (Airport Road). At three-way stop, bear left (up hill) into Park Vista Hotel entrance. (Approximate travel time from airport is 1.5 hours).

Scenic route from airport: (through Great Smoky Mountains National Park): Follow directions above, EXCEPT, do not turn left on US 321 S at Townsend. Continue straight on Scenic Route 73 to stop sign. Turn left (To Gatlinburg) and follow to intersection with US 441. Take US 441 N to Gatlinburg. Turn right at traffic light #8 (Airport Road). At three-way stop, bear left (uphill) into Park Vista Hotel entrance. (Approximate travel time from airport is 1.5 hours – Caution: this road is extremely curvy through the park).

NASLR 2009 – EVENT SCHEDULE

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- Hospitality Suite open

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- 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Awards Banquet / Guest Speaker
- 9:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Wednesday September 23, 2009

- 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Field Trip
- 4:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Field Trip

The field trip will move 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 SiO₂ 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 limestone quarry that exists in the midst of one of the most populous and fastest growing areas in Tennessee.

Please bring hard hats and safety-toed shoes if you have them. Weather is generally warm in late September and spotty thundershowers are common, so bring appropriate clothing.

SPOUSE'S TOUR

2009 NASLR Conference

Due to the wide variability of activities and the availability of free transportation, no formally organized Spouse's Tour is planned for this year's meeting. Instead, we would like to present an "a la carte" format.

In Gatlinburg you might consider a visit to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, an aerial tram ride to Ober Gatlinburg, a visit to the Great Smoky Arts and Crafts Community, a raft ride on one of the area rivers, a round of golf, or simply browsing through one of the many shops along the main street. For more complete listings of area attractions visit:

<http://www.gatlinburg.com/things-to-do/attractions/>

or

<http://www.attractions-gatlinburg.com/>

If you prefer a more natural setting, perhaps you would like to spend time in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. A trip to the Sugarlands Visitors Center (about 10 minutes from the Park Vista Hotel) will provide you with information about the various recreational activities available in the park such as: hiking, horseback riding, self-guided car tours, fishing, and much more. To learn more about the visitors center, and the park itself, go to:

<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/visitorcenters.htm>

However, if your tastes run more toward hardcore "power shopping" then you will not want to miss the collection of outlet stores in Pigeon Forge. China, clothing, shoes, power tools, cookware...it's all available at the outlet malls in Pigeon Forge. For more information, try:

<http://local.pigeonforge.com/n/outlet-stores/pigeon-forge/tn/s-15-1-2074>

Free trolleys serving the Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge areas arrive at the hotel approximately every 15 minutes and run from around 8 a.m. to around 10 p.m. The hotel staff and trolley drivers will be glad to assist you in reaching your destinations.

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

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS
37TH ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20 – 23, 2009
PARK VISTA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
GATLINBURG, TN**

To become a sponsor or exhibitor:

Corporate sponsorships available for this year's conference not only provide for corporate recognition, but help defray expenses in conducting the conference. All sponsors will be recognized at the NASLR conference. Opportunities for sponsorship include: coffee breaks, the awards banquet, doorprizes, the hospitality suite and general conference support. Sponsors may specify which function(s) are being supported if desired.

Cash sponsorships are welcome in any amount. Sponsorships of \$200.00 or more include an exhibitors' booth if desired. Exhibitor booths are also available separately for \$100.00 each. A booth is 8'x10' with professional pipe and drape, 1 table, 2 chairs, a wastebasket and electricity.

Doorprizes may be in many forms including, but not limited to: shirts, jackets, cups, mineral samples, gift certificates for goods or services, caps, tote bags, etc. Any such donation may include the company's logo or other information on the item.

If you would like to be a sponsor, please complete the attached form and mail it, along with any payment, to:

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

Doorprizes may be brought to the conference or forwarded to:

Bruce Ragon
TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921-6538

If there are questions, please contact Bruce Ragon at bruce.ragon@tn.gov or (865) 594-5547.

SPONSOR / EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

**National Association of State Land Reclamationists
2009 Conference
Park Vista Hotel
Gatlinburg, TN**

September 20-23, 2009

(Company/Organization Name)

(Contact Name)

(Phone)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

Type of Donation: Cash _____
(Amount) (Specify event being sponsored, if desired)

*Doorprizes _____
(Indicate Type and Amount)

*(Doorprizes may include, but are not limited to, caps, shirts, mineral samples, cups, etc. with or without company logos)

(For donations of \$200.00 or more) An exhibitor booth is / is not requested.

**For Exhibition Booth Only: We request ___ booth(s) @ \$100.00 per booth.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Please make checks out to NASLR. Please note that we cannot accept credit card payments at this time.

Please mail the completed form along with payment to:

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

Donations of doorprizes should be forwarded to:

Bruce Ragon
TN Dept. of Environment & Conservation
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, TN 37921-6538

** (Exhibitor booths are 8'X10' w/professional pipe/drape, 1 table, 2 chairs, wastebasket, and electricity)