



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

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

Spring 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Smith

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental
Protection**



Some of us are old enough to remember the first Earth Day in 1970. I remember it quite vividly as a 7th grader. Within a few short years, a number of landmark environmental statutes became law, eventually to include the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, or SMCRA. For many of us, this opened up good career paths in all sorts of environmental protection fields, including mine reclamation. If you remember the first Earth Day, no doubt you are one of those pioneers.

The first NASLR annual meeting was held in 1973, just three years after the first Earth Day and before the passage of SMCRA. Although land reclamation wasn't completely new, it certainly got a major boost from the Federal requirements to reclaim surface coal mines. Looking back on the tremendous gains in mine reclamation since 1970, I think it is fair to say that we reclamation professionals have a lot to be proud of. The improvements in mine permitting, mining, reclamation, mine water management, and all manner of environmental concerns, whether in government, academia, or indirectly, have been tremendous.

So where does that position the mine reclamation professional and NASLR for the next decade and more? Certainly the need for industrial minerals will continue or accelerate. Coal mining activity, while under pressure from carbon emission and global warning concerns, is not going to drop off as quickly as some would prefer. At the same time,

our population continues to increase, land values rise and conflicts over land use, water, and other environmental values intensify. All of this points to the continual need for a new generation of bright and energetic reclamation professionals who will continue to develop improved and innovative reclamation techniques and solutions to environmental challenges in a more crowded, more thirsty, and more mineral-hungry world.

Mark Twain famously said "Buy land, they're not making it anymore." While that may be true, most of the time, in most places, the land reclamationist is doing just that – making new and productive land.

38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

***Land Stewardship - Responsible Mining
Challenges and Reclamation Successes
Through Cooperative Efforts***

**SEPTEMBER 13 – 15, 2010
Holiday Inn and Conference Center
Carbondale, Illinois**

The 2010 Annual Conference will be hosted by our friends in beautiful southern Illinois. Nestled between the Shawnee National Forest, the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and Illinois Coal country, the area is rich with natural beauty, interesting geology, mining history, and stellar

reclamation success stories. Nearby Giant City State Park and the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail will make for an excellent trip to bring along your family, spouse, or guest.

Lodging & Travel

Reservations for the Holiday Inn may be made by calling 618-549-2600 or toll free at 1-800-HOLIDAY. For more information visit: <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/hotels/us/en/carbondale/mdhci/hoteldetail>. You must reference the National Association of State Land Reclamationists in order to receive the conference/government rate of \$70 per night.

The nearest major airport is St. Louis, Lambert Field (2 hours). Other regional airports include Evansville, In (2 hours), Paducah, KY (1 hour), and Marion, IL (10 min.).

Registration & Information

Keep abreast of conference developments by visiting the NASLR website at www.crc.siu.edu/naslr.htm. Please register as quickly as possible so that we can finalize our head count for the banquet and field trip. Note that members who work for a state agency of an active member state will receive a special registration rate of \$130. All other member registrations are \$150. Forms can be found online or at the back of this newsletter.

Sponsor/Exhibitor Booth

The Sponsor/Exhibitor Booth rate will be \$200. Sponsorship forms can be found on the website or at the end of this newsletter.

Spouses and Guests

This year's spouse tour will be a trip through wine country, Giant City State Park, the Shawnee National Forest, and includes a tour of the Little Grassy Fish Hatchery, shopping along the Makanda Boardwalk, a winery stop, and more. Stay tuned to the 'spouse tour' page on the web for developing activities.

38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

The tentative event schedule is as follows:

Sunday, September 12, 2010

2:00 – 5:00 Registration
5:00 Hospitality Suite Open

Monday, September 13, 2010

8:30 – 11:30 Technical Sessions
11:30 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 Technical Sessions
5:00 – Hospitality Suite Open

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

8:30 – 11:30 Technical Sessions
11:30 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 NASLR Business Meeting
5:30 – 6:30 Reception
6:30 – 9:30 Banquet/Awards

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

8:30 – 4:00 Field Trip
4:30 Hospitality Suite Open

Other Meetings to Note

NAAMLPA will be holding its 32nd Annual Conference September 19-22, 2010 in Scranton, PA. For more information, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

OSM will host a Technical Interactive Forum **Protecting Bats at Coal Mines**, August 31 - September 3, 2010 Charleston, WV. For more information visit www.techtransfer.osmre.gov.



STATE NEWS/ACTIVITIES

MISSOURI

News from the Show Me State

Amanda Weimer

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Land Reclamation Program (LRP), Industrial Minerals Unit (IM) has been in the process of developing a statewide geodatabase that includes all pertinent spatial and non-spatial permit information for the state's 790 sites. The goal of this project is to have an accurate, and constantly evolving, GIS for permitting and inspection purposes.

The geodatabase includes information that was digitized by LRP-IM staff for the following feature classes: mine site, exempt site, complaint, entrance, permit boundary, mine plan boundary, property boundary, problem area and pre-law area. Attribute tables for each feature class contain fields for permit number, operator, site number, site name and comments. Polygon feature class attribute tables contain fields for permitted acreage and actual acreage. Feature class data was obtained by georeferencing scanned paper maps from the permit files and digitizing features. This process is ongoing, and has presented numerous issues with file map accuracy. The result has been varied, with some mine sites requiring more acreage to be bonded, and some simply needing permit boundaries to be repositioned. Staff has taken this opportunity to reconcile any issues with mine operators.

The geodatabase is used in conjunction with imagery including aerial photography and satellite images. The most current satellite images are used for determining current status of the sites, and older satellite images and aerial photography are used for making pre-law exemption determinations and investigating possible changes in stream channel morphology. Also, an additional geodatabase has been prepared to provide supplemental data to the project. This is an uneditable, compressed geodatabase that includes the following feature classes: county boundaries, municipal boundaries,

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, 2010.

Public Land Survey System lines, roads, National Hydrography Dataset flowlines, and major rivers. This data is available on the MDNR GIS server, and was created by a variety of sources.

There have been many benefits of this project, the first being the previously mentioned improvement in permit boundary accuracy. Another benefit of the project is that it can be used to locate remote in-stream sand and gravel sites that are not readily visible from main roadways. This is accomplished by using the GPS toolbar in ArcGIS. A GPS device is connected to a laptop while in the field, and location is tracked in relation to the site. Similarly, this application is used to view other spatial information contained in the project in relation to the current location. Non-spatial information, such as permit number, is also easily accessible.

In the future, the intention is to complete the digitization of all permit map information, and continue to update the geodatabase for permitting and inspection purposes. As the project progresses, it is likely that additional feature classes and data will be added. Research studies are also being planned to examine the relationships between IM site information and surrounding land use, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and water quality.





CALL FOR PAPERS or PRESENTATIONS

**38th Annual Conference of the National
Association of State Land Reclamationists
September 12-15, 2010,
Carbondale, Illinois**

Land Stewardship - Responsible Mining Challenges and Reclamation Successes Through Cooperative Efforts

An abstract or title is to be submitted by June 10th. Send to Anna Caswell via email at aharring@siu.edu or contact her at (618) 536-5521.

A presentation of the paper or topic will be expected at the annual meeting. Registration cost will be \$150. Speakers will be required to register for the conference; however their conference fee is waived if only attending their session. Limited space is available for exhibitors.

38th Annual NASLR Conference

September 13-15, 2010

Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Carbondale, Illinois

*Land Stewardship - Responsible Mining Challenges and Reclamation
Successes Through Cooperative Efforts*

Name: _____ Name tag (if different) _____

Title : _____

State / Organization / Dept. _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail : _____

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

Number Fee

_____ @ \$150 Associate Member Registration

_____ @ \$130.00 Individual Member Registration (Active State membership required)

_____ @ \$100.00 Spouse / Guest Registration Name: _____

_____ 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

Email: aharring@siu.edu

If you would like to pay using a credit card, you may do so using Paypal. Please contact Anna Caswell at the above email for instructions. You need not have a Paypal account to use this service.



The 32nd Annual NAAML P Conference will be in Scranton, Pennsylvania, September 19-22, 2010. It will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and will be held at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center. This year's conference theme, "**Their Legacy, Our Heritage, Everyone's Future**" was chosen to highlight the nation's rich mining heritage, the significant accomplishments in reclaiming the legacy of that mining, and to focus on the goals for the future. The rich mining heritage and unique AML problems of Pennsylvania's anthracite region provide an excellent backdrop as a meeting venue.

Scranton is the county seat of Lackawanna County, where there are 106 Priority 1-, 2 and 3 AML problem areas. Work has been done in 52 of those problem areas, and some \$83 million of AML reclamation has been done by SMCRA and State funding under the AML program since 1977.

Scranton is nicknamed "The Electric City" for having the nation's first electrified streetcar in 1886. Scranton is leveraging its rich history to attract new interest and investment, especially in the city's historic downtown. Scranton is the largest city located in a contiguous quilt-work of former anthracite coal mining communities including the smaller cities of Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, and Carbondale, the area known as the Northern Anthracite Field. Though anthracite coal was being mined in Carbondale to the north and Wilkes-Barre to the south, the industry that precipitated the city's growth was iron and steel. In 1840, the Scranton family founded what would become the Lackawanna Steel Company. And today Scranton is the home of Steamtown National Historical Site, Scranton Iron Furnaces, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Scranton Coal Mine Tour, and The Electric City Trolley Museum. And of course Scranton is home to Dunder Mifflin, the fictional paper company from the hit NBC sitcom "The Office," which has brought national attention to the city. The meeting venue will be the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center.

Scranton is an easy drive to New York shopping and shows, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Chocolate World in Hershey, Dutch Country in Lancaster, and the Battlefield at Gettysburg. Take some time to visit Pennsylvania in the fall.

Conference field trips will be offered to sites that will highlight Anthracite Region AML features, AML reclamation projects, AMD treatment facilities, active anthracite mines, and ventures using resources from AML, in addition to heritage sites. Plans for pre-conference tours, Sunday's activities, Monday's Banquet, and Tuesday's Social are being finalized. Look for updated information on the Conference website, <http://NAAML P2010.com>.

A call for papers was recently issued with a May 7 deadline, and sponsorships and exhibitors are being solicited.

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