



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

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

Winter 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Michael Smith*

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental  
Protection**

One of NASLR's most important functions is to promote quality reclamation through its awards program and to encourage professional development in the reclamation field. Annually, NASLR presents an award for the best coal and non coal reclamation, as well as an award for outreach, for the reclamationist of the year, and an educational grant for a student in a reclamation-related field. We've recently pushed back the application deadline for these awards to June 1 in order to accommodate more applicants. I can think of few better ways for NASLR to further its mission than through a robust awards program. To this end, I encourage all NASLR members to submit nominations for these awards. The award categories and criteria are available on the NASLR web site at <http://www.crc.siu.edu/naslr.htm>. If you know of a deserving candidate, please take the effort to submit a nomination.

Also, an important note to NASLR members and associates: Clear your calendar for the 2010 NASLR annual meeting to be held September 13-15 in Carbondale, Illinois. For those of you who think that Illinois consists of Chicago with a lot of corn to the south, think again! I have been assured by our gracious hosts that this couldn't be farther from the truth. Carbondale, the home of Southern Illinois University, also boasts wineries, parks, shopping, golf, and the Shawnee National Forest. We look forward to meeting once again with reclamationists from throughout the U.S.



## 2010 Annual Meeting Update

*Dean Spindler*

**Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals**

We are working on the annual NASLR conference. The Call for Papers/Presentations can be found at the end of this newsletter and a simple schedule is included in the 'State News/Reports' section.

The Carbondale area will provide for an enjoyable meeting and an excellent field trip site. As an attendee of approximately 30 NASLR conferences, I have always placed a high value on this part of the conference. One of the sites we will visit will be a 6000 acre coal mine which opened in 1975 and closed in 1990 and has met all reclamation bond release standards and has received several reclamation awards. It has every land use you want to see: **prime farmland, a stream diversion, warm season prairie grass, forest, wetlands including slurry wetlands, and deep water lakes.** It is also habitat for the bald eagle, endangered trumpeter swan, numerous waterfowl, plus beaver, turkey, deer, fox and some big time bass fishing.

This site had all of the above, with the exception of the swan, before mining. If the permit were proposed in today's litigious world, it would probably be touted as a site that couldn't be reclaimed. Come see a site where the environmental stewardship of the land has been met by balancing the need for a mineral with the restoration of the land after mining. Also come to learn what we learned; what worked and what didn't. This site is also a good example where regulators, conservation agencies, universities, and the mining company worked together in problem solving. PS. We will have by-pass the usual observation spot, because the trees on reclaimed ground are getting too big and block the view.

The next newsletter will feature articles from Alaska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Deadline for copy to be received at the Coal Research Center is March 31, 2010.

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## STATE NEWS/REPORTS

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*Mining Permit Fees*

*Mike Smith*

*Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection*

2009 was a tough year for many NASLR member states facing budget shortfalls and, in some cases, staff reductions and even furloughs. Pennsylvania was no exception and now it faces the challenge of maintaining a mining and reclamation program with fewer staff and dwindling financial resources. I'm sure many of you find your state programs in the same predicament. While we all hope for an economic rebound and improved state budgets, many agencies are looking at increasing permit fees or other ways of financing state regulatory programs to supplement or replace state general fund revenues. Pennsylvania, for one, is looking at increasing fees for coal and non coal mining permits. The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) recently conducted a thorough survey of 40 mining states to compare their non coal mining programs. That survey included a comprehensive look at permit fees and other regulatory fees and how they are used to fund their programs. As you might expect, fees vary widely and may consist of a single fee or a combination of permit fees, application fees, license fees, reclamation fees, acreage fees, and severances taxes.

The IMCC survey can be accessed at <http://www.imcc.isa.us/NonCoal/2008NoncoalReport.htm>.



## 2010 Annual Meeting Schedule

**Sunday, September 12, 2010**

**Registration & Welcome Reception**

**Monday, September 13, 2010**

**Technical Sessions**

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010**

**Morning-Technical Sessions  
Afternoon-Business Meeting & Elections  
Evening-Banquet**

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010**

**Field Trip**

**Other Meetings to Note**

NAAMLPA will be holding its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference September 19-22, 2010 in Scranton, PA. For more information, see the attachment on page 4 of the newsletter.

OSM will host a Technical Interactive Forum **Protecting Bats at Coal Mines**, August 31 - September 3, Charleston, WV. For more information visit [www.techtransfer.osmre.gov](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov).



## **CALL FOR PAPERS or PRESENTATIONS**

**38<sup>nd</sup> 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 May 1. Send to Anna Caswell via email at [aharring@siu.edu](mailto: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.



The 32<sup>nd</sup> 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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