



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

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

Winter 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joe Hager

**West Virginia Department of Environmental
Protection**

Being raised in the southern West Virginia coal fields, I can readily recall the days of unreclaimed mine sites creating scarred land and generating hundreds of miles of polluted streams. The passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) and the Clean Water Act of 1972 forever changed the environmental landscape of mining across the nation. In January of this year, West Virginia's Division of Mining and Reclamation celebrated its thirty year anniversary for obtaining primacy of the mining regulatory program.

The improvement in the quality of reclaimed mined lands and adjacent streams has been extremely pronounced through the efforts of thousands of environmental stewards aided by state and federal legislation, not only in West Virginia but across the United States. The National Association of State Land Reclamationists embraces the practices and principles of sound environmental stewardship in the process of mining coal and non-coal resources. As President of NASLR and a thirty year veteran of environmental regulation in West Virginia, I am privileged to invite each of you to attend the 2011 Conference to be held near Daniels, West Virginia.

Within this newsletter, you will find information about the conference including the venue, costs, and schedule. In keeping with recent practices, continuing education credits will be awarded to attendees. Please register early and we look forward to seeing you at the conference.

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, 2011.

39th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

***Protecting Tomorrow's Waterways through
Responsible Land Reclamation Today***

September 25-28, 2011

Glade Springs Resort near Daniels, West Virginia

NASLR welcomes each of you in the public and private sector who share a commitment to the responsible recovery of our natural resources in a manner that promotes cost effective and efficient environmental stewardship.

The association provides government employees, higher education students and staff, corporate sponsors, and companies involved in land reclamation with the opportunity to attend a storied professional development conference where Continuing Education Units are awarded to attending individuals.

SPONSORSHIPS

Corporate sponsorships are available in three categories:

Gold sponsorships are priced at \$750. Included in this sponsorship is a one year NASLR corporate membership; Premier furnished exhibit location for three days; Priority corporate sponsor seating at the conference; and one full registration.

Silver sponsorships are priced at \$500. Included in this sponsorship is a one year NASLR corporate membership; Furnished exhibit for three days.

Bronze sponsorships are priced at \$250. This sponsorship provides a furnished exhibit location for three days.

Additional information regarding sponsorships will be provided as requested.

REGISTRATION

The conference registration fee is \$150 per person which includes the conference presentations, a day-long field trip, conference break refreshments, a bag lunch for the field trip and dinner at the awards banquet.

The registration fee for spouses or significant others is \$100. A spouse's tour will be conducted on Monday, September 26, 2011. The spouse's tour will include visits to the Beckley Exhibition Coal Mine, The Scenic New River Gorge, Tamarack (The Best of West Virginia), Daniels Vineyard and more.

The registration form can be found at the end of this newsletter or may be accessed via the NASLR web page.

All registrations with NASLR for the conference are due by August 15, 2011. Late registration for the conference will be accepted through September 25, 2011 with an additional \$25.00 late registration fee.

GETTING THERE

For delegates flying to the conference, Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia is within a seventy five minute drive of Glade Springs Resort.

LODGING

Reservations at The Glade Springs Resort must be made by August 15 as well in order to be assured of the guaranteed conference rate. Room reservations may be made by contacting "The Glade Springs Resort" near Beckley, West Virginia at 866-562-8054. By requesting to book a room for the 2011 NASLR Conference your room rate will be \$102.00 per night including all taxes and fees. This rate is

available September 24-30, 2011. Following below is a link to the Glade Springs Resort.

<http://www.gladesprings.com/>

2011 AWARDS

If you wish to submit a package for any National Award consideration, please review the Web Page for categories and contact a NASLR member. Awards are given each year for

- Exemplary Reclamation in Coal/ Non-coal categories
- Community Outreach in Coal/ Non-coal categories
- Reclamationist of the Year (Individual Award)
- Educational Scholarship (A college Junior or Senior Majoring in Reclamation-related field)

Tentative Conference Schedule

Sunday 09/25/2011

3:00 - 5:00 Registration/ Check-in

5:00 - 9:00 Informal Hospitality Gathering

Monday 09/26/2011

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00 Opening Remarks

9:00 - 10:30 Session I & II

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 - 12:15 Session III & Session IV

12:15 - 1:15 Lunch

1:15 - 2:45 Session V & VI

2:45 - 3:00 Break

3:00 - 3:45 Session VII

5:00 - 9:00 Hospitality Suite open

Tuesday 09/27/2011

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45 Opening Remarks

8:45 - 10:15 Session VIII & IX

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 Session X & XI

12:00 - 1:15 Lunch

1:15 - 3:15 NASLR Membership Business Meeting

6:00 - 7:00 Awards Banquet Reception

7:00 - 9:00 Awards Banquet

9:00 - 1:00 Hospitality Suite open

Wednesday 09/28/2011

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 - 4:30 Field Trip

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

For more information on the 2011 NASLR

Conference contact

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STATE NEWS/REPORTS

Illinois

Dean Spindler

Illinois Office of Mines & Minerals

Permit activity is still very, very busy, and not at all indicative of the state's economy. After a year and a half we finally managed to replace an inspector. We hope to pick up one more this year. Many permitting activities are contested these days which is creating a heavy load for the legal staff. We also had our very first request from a public interest group to go on a bond release inspection. No objections were made during the public comment period.

We are in the middle of a two year internal review of our bond calculation rates. Due to the big earthmoving cost increases, and other issues most bonds are going up 50% or greater. There is a lot more interest from the industry as to how we do our calculations. Some constructive feedback assisted us in making more accurate calculations and to add more features to our Excel program BOND CALC. As better information came in, we made a number of upgrades to the program to offer more reclamation options. We are still planning one more upgrade this year. Periodic review of recent AML bids gives a lot of real world costs. One positive fallout is that several Temporary Cessation sites with the questionable ability to re-open, will complete reclamation in lieu of the increased bond.

We are making the change from our ARCIMS Coal Mine Viewer to the ARCGIS platform. This is the site with our spatial information. The new site is: <http://geoserver.dnr.illinois.gov/CoalMineViewer/>. The good is it has more features such as the ability to draw polygon off the imagery within a permit and generate acreage. The bad is it takes much longer to open the program. This site does have some limited information on non-coal sites.

Another web site <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/viewers/coal-mines.shtml> which was developed by the Illinois State Geological Survey for our program, offers address matching to allow the public to see if they are undermined. The Survey also added known and assumed non-coal underground mining limits. Our Coal Mine viewer can show the limits of undermining, but lacked an address matching feature to zoom directly to an address location.

Indiana

Laura Montgrain, GIS Inventory Specialist for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has provided a paper representing some of their activities in the southwest portion of the state. The paper follows the meeting information on page 4.