



NASLR
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

FALL 2015

<http://www.naslr.org>

2015 President Mike Smith joining the entertainment and playing spoons at the 2015 conference banquet (very well we might add).



Outgoing President's Message
"Go west young man (and woman)"

Michael W. Smith

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Gather your wagons gang and hitch up your horses. For 2016, NASLR will be heading west. If you attended the September meeting in Wise, Virginia, you know what I'm talking about. In the last year, your NASLR Executive Committee and the newly-rejuvenated Public Relations and Education (PRE) Committee have worked hard to increase state membership, with some of these states from the Western U.S. We now have 18 member states and they include Alaska, Montana and Washington. In addition, we are trying to take advantage of the synergies inherent in combining our conference with the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs (NAAML). The conference dates are September 26-28, 2016 at Bozeman Montana. With the large number of attendees expected, there will be a choice of several field trip options, including abandoned metals mines as well as some more touristy stops in Yellowstone and surrounding areas. Be sure to mark the dates in your calendar.

And wrapping up the year as outgoing President, I'd like to express my sincere thank you to Janet Yates and all of the folks at DMME in Virginia. They did an outstanding job at organizing and running the annual meeting, field trip and banquet at Wise VA, right down to recruiting Joey O'Quinn's bluegrass band and the usual line up of excellent presentations. I also want to take note of the excellent work that has been done by our Secretary/Treasurer, Derek Giebell and wish the best to incoming President and colleague Sam Faith. I sincerely believe that NASLR will continue to pick up more member states and interest in reclamation activities of all sorts from around the country.

NASLR WELCOMES A NEW PRESIDENT

In September NASLR welcomed new president Sam Faith with the Pennsylvania DEP in the New Stanton Office. Sam is getting settled in as NASLR President and will have more information in our Spring newsletter.





2015 Conference attendees at the newly restored Wise Inn engaged with information filled presentations.

43rd Annual NASLR Conference *September 13-16, 2015*

Reclamationists from across the country found their way to Wise, Virginia for the 2015 Conference. The conference was hosted by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's (DMME) Mined Land Reclamation group, led by permit reviewer, Janet Yates. Apparently interest, like the coal industry, was weakening. But, Yates saw the importance of being involved in the rebuilding of NASLR and suggested the conference come to Virginia. "We decided to step up and host in hopes that reclamationists in hard hit neighboring states would be able to come due to the location", said Yates. "And, it's an honor for us to be able to bring folks as far away as Alaska here to show them some of our reclamation sites."

The conference kicked off with presentations on best practices, new studies and helpful information on land reclamation. DMME provided some expert information from its mined land reclamation, mineral and geology groups. NASLR attendees said the best part of the conference was the field trips. And, Yates said that was

another reason southwest Virginia was ideal for a gathering of reclamationists. "It is very important because the principles of the Forestry Reclamation Approach that is used in many states now... were started by researchers here in southwest Virginia." The group visited Dominion's power plant in Virginia City, the Powell Research Center, Red

River Coal and an Abandoned Mine Land project in Black Creek. While education and site visits are certainly important, many conference attendees say it was the conversations with fellow reclamationists that were most beneficial. "I think it's very important for our staff to be able to compare notes on how we do things here versus another state," said Yates. "It's a good way to get a diverse

group together and collaborate on best practices and what works. It's a great opportunity for all states to share information, come up with new ideas and to work to make the conference better next year."



Janet Yates served as the 2015 Conference Coordinator and will serve as the incoming NASLR Vice President.

Award Winners

Virginia's Paramount Coal Company, Hawks Nest Surface Mine received the Coal Reclamation Award

Located in Buchanan County, Hawks Nest was chosen due to the variety of reclamation projects on site and for the work done by Paramount to remove any hazards left behind by coal mining before environmental regulations were in place.



Active reclamation on the western end of the Coalfields Expressway and future location of Rt. 460 intersection and the development potential for lands along these roads.

Paramount reclaimed land to serve as roadbed for the future Coalfields Expressway through a public/private partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation. The formerly mined land is also equipped with gas wells and

pipelines for residential and industrial development. These reforestation efforts have attracted newly released elk to roam on the permit—a site that will be ideal for tourists looking to view the animals. In addition, the company also restored over 4,500 feet of streams through re-mining. It is truly an honor to receive this award from those professionals tasked with assuring that high standards are achieved nationwide,” said Eddie Bateman, Senior Vice President of Mining Operations for Alpha Natural Resources. “This is an excellent example of the creativity, attention to detail and hard work of the employees at Paramount. That, coupled with the diligence by the state agency, DMME, has resulted in a very beneficial post-mining land use that will benefit the community in the years to come.”

Deputy Director of DMME, Butch Lambert, said he was not surprised when NASLR announced Hawks Nest the winner. “Protecting the environment is DMME’s business and operators like Paramount are testaments to successful environmental regulations in Virginia. We especially like to see reclamation that saves taxpayers’ dollars and improves tourism in the region.”

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission recognized Paramount with an honorable mention award for the Hawks Nest permit. DMME also nominated Hawks Nest for a national award from the federal Office of Surface Mining.



Presenting the 2015 Coal Reclamation Award are VA DMLR Inspector Tim Munsey and NASLR President Mike Smith, to Paramount Coal Company Virginia employees Arlie Collier, and Jacky Ball along with VA DMLR Supervisor Jim Meacham.



The Elk herd often seen on the reclaimed Paramount permit.



Completed stream restoration and mitigation displaying pools and riffles along with native riparian species.

2015 Noncoal Reclamation Award



NASLR Member Halina Duda of the NYSDEC presenting the 2015 Noncoal Reclamation Award to Paul Taphorn, VP Construction Services, Tilcon NY, Inc.

New York's Tilcon NY, Inc. received the Noncoal Reclamation Award.

The Tilcon New York, Inc., Suffern Quarry was historically known as the Union Hill Quarry. Diabase (Preakness Basalt) mining began in 1909. Plaza Materials, a subsidiary of Yonkers Contracting Company was issued a New York State Mined Land Reclamation Permit in 1978.

The site is located in a heavily populated area, and lies between the New York State Thruway to the North, the Mahwah River on the western flank of the property, Avon Laboratories on the east, and railroad tracks and residential areas to the south. The site is comprised of approximately 60 acres with 38 acres under the jurisdiction of the NYS Mined Land Reclamation Law.

A few years after Tilcon purchased the site, United Water, expressed interest in obtaining the quarry to use as a reservoir to address the demands of a growing population in Rockland County and portions of New Jersey. However the quarry's relatively small size was inadequate for an additional source of drinking water. During this time, the Town of Ramapo Supervisor expressed interest in utilizing the quarry as green space and recreational use for Town residents. Tilcon ultimately donated the property to the Town for recreational use. The Town was very concerned that the basic reclamation depicted on the old reclamation plan would not meet their needs. Tilcon reached an agreement on the final reclamation which would satisfy the NYSDEC reclamation requirements and also provide the Town with a park and possible building site in the upland areas.



The active Tilcon quarry before reclamation .



Prior to selling, Plaza Materials had several violations for over excavation of the east side (onto the adjacent Avon Property), and north side (into a high voltage transmission line tower area, in the New York State Thruway ROW), backfilling with C & D, construction of a berm adjacent to a protected stream, and failure to commence reclamation of these areas.

New York's Tilcon NY, Inc. received the 2015 Noncoal Reclamation Award (cont.)

The duration of the project was approximately 10 weeks.

The greatest challenge was the cutting, and re-grading of over two acres of the screenings pile, and then installing the erosion control matting on the 2:1 slope.



As this site had been mined for over 100 years, there was no topsoil/suitable soil capable of sustaining vegetation, and some areas had approximately 6"inch diameter trees growing in the overburden/spoils along the benches, Tilcon had to backfill areas with screenings on site and then cover with fertile soil. Care was taken not to remove any trees and vegetation that had been growing.



Tilcon was committed to making this quarry into a park that would also be safe. Their efforts were over and above what was contained in the original reclamation plan.



2015 Scholarship Recipient Kara Dallarie

Kara Dallaire is the 2015 NASLR Scholarship winner. Kara is a graduate student at West Virginia University presented her research at the conference entitled Height of Three Hardwood Species Growing on Mine Sites Compared to Natural Conditions.



Kara presenting her research: Height of Three Hardwood Species Growing on Mine Sites Compared to Natural Conditions at the 2015 conference.



Richard Davis (VA DMLR and 2015 NASLR Conference host) along with Kara Dallarie receiving The 2015 NASLR Scholarship from 2015 NASLR President Mike Smith.

NASLR 2015 CONFERENCE PHOTOS



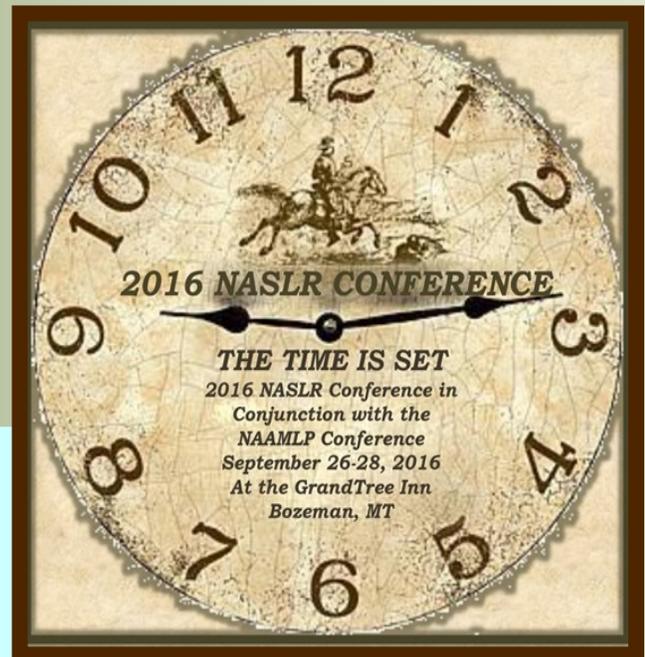
Attendees enjoying a beautiful afternoon at the High Knob and Flag Rock Recreation Areas.



2015 Conference entertainment provided by "The Poplar Hill Reunion" composed of several DMME employees.

NASLR 2016 CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for next year's conference! More details for the 2016 NASLR Conference with NAAMLPA will be posted in our next newsletter.



NASLR NEWLETTER Fall 2015

naslr.org

To submit material for future newsletters please contact Jeff Meitrott jmeitrott@pa.gov. Please use a **NASLR Newsletter Submission Form** ([click here](#)).

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