



"DEDICATED TO QUALITY LAND RECLAMATION"

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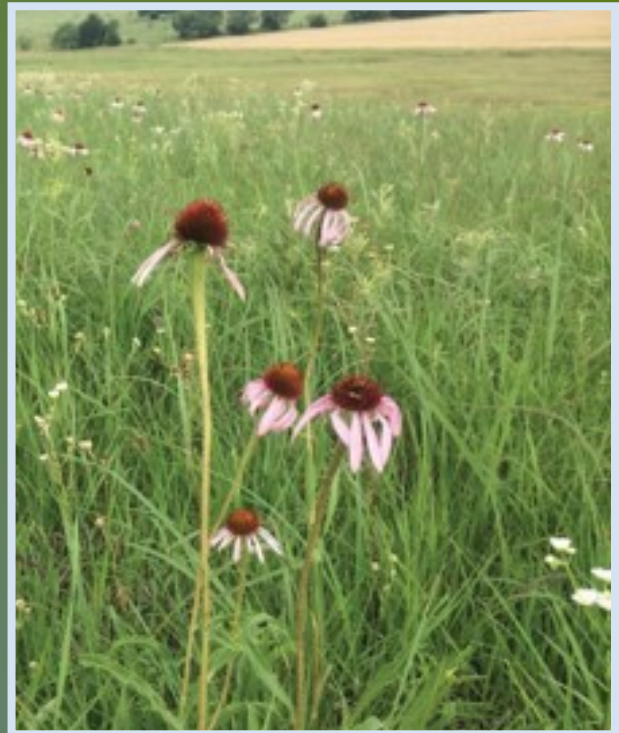
Message from the President
By Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan
Energy Coordinator, Illinois CMS
Environmental Health and Safety

This has been a great year for NASLR so far. COVID may have given us some obstacles but we kept our (virtual) hard hats on and pressed on with construction to improve NASLR! While we have been working on several initiatives, I would like to highlight a few key ones. First, the revamp of the website.

Your Vice President Scot May has worked tirelessly in improving the look and functionality of the website. The webpage was completely reorganized from the ground up. The website is now more organized, logical, and looks better too! Give it a spin while you are registering for the conference.

Speaking of the conference, we will be doing a NASLR first and hosting a hybrid conference. The lifting of some COVID related restrictions has allowed us to proceed with an in-person conference in NY's capital district (Albany area) with a fun field trip! However, we know many States have not fully lifted their travel restrictions, therefore, the hybrid format will allow those interested individuals to still attend the conference. If you plan on being a presenter, we encourage you to present in-person but will extend the option for a virtual presentation.

Finally, we will be implementing another NASLR first and feature a detailed profile on a



Member State Regulatory Program. The first State to be featured is New York. Committee members Psalm Wyckoff, Simone Rodriguez, and Halina Duda have put together this profile to showcase the New York Program to our NASLR readership. Feel free to browse to (page 4) and learn more about their program. We plan on featuring a new State every year during our Summer Newsletter. If you would like to be the next State to be featured please email [Simone](mailto:simone.rodriguez@dec.ny.gov). (simone.rodriguez@dec.ny.gov)

These initiatives lay the foundation for NASLR to expand its influence on the National Stage. I honestly had the easy job of telling you everything we are working on. The real credit goes to our **volunteer** committee members and the continued support of our member States. I would like to thank each of you for seeing the potential of this organization and supporting its push forward.

See you in New York's Capital District this fall!

**50TH
ANNUAL**



**SEPTEMBER
26-28**

NASLR Conference and Technical Sessions
Click here for
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

<https://naslr.org/conference/>

Join us for a information packed conference!

MONDAY (Sept 26, 2022) — Technical Sessions 1 & 2 (AM & PM) and Awards Banquet in the evening

TUESDAY (Sept 27, 2022) — Field trip to visit mines in the beautiful northern Hudson River Valley and Southern Adirondacks!

WEDNESDAY (Sept 28, 2022) — Technical Session 3 (AM) followed by the NASLR business meeting with lunch.



Reserve a room at **THE CENTURY HOUSE** in Latham, NY by visiting **thecenturyhouse.com** or calling 518.401.0717.

Identify yourself as “NASLR” for the reserved room block. Rooms are first come first serve.

CHECK OUT NASLR'S REVAMPED WEBSITE!

National Association of State Land Reclamationists

About NASLR Conference 2022 Newsletters Awards 2022 Nominations Members and Agencies Membership Notes

NASLR

Our mission "To promote the reclamation of lands affected by mining activities through an interactive and educational forum for state land reclamationists, where techniques and practices to advance the quality of mined land reclamation are shared, and recognition for outstanding reclamation is given."

Check out our new website!

- ❖ Updated links, articles, awards
- ❖ Upcoming Conference info
- ❖ Past Conference Presentations
- ❖ Interactive Member State Map

CONFERENCE INFO

NASLR.org

NASLR'S PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS *WHERE ARE THEY NOW?*

Kenton Sena received the NASLR Scholarship in 2014, when he was wrapping up his M.S. in Forestry at University of Kentucky. After that, he spent a summer in Australia on an NSF East Asia and the Pacific Summer Institutes fellowship. He then went into a Ph.D. program in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences at UK, which he finished in 2018. "The financial support provided by the NASLR scholarship helped me focus on my research--I ended up publishing four papers from my M.S. work and four more from my Ph.D., which helped me launch my career in academia."



Kenton currently is a lecturer in the Lewis Honors College at the University of Kentucky.

He teaches the Honors Foundations Seminar as well as additional Honors courses in ecology and the environment. He's also doing research projects in mined land reforestation, urban reforestation, and forest hydrology.

More information on Kenton and what he is getting into can be found at: <https://www.uky.edu/honors/kenton-sena>

MEMBER STATE PROFILE

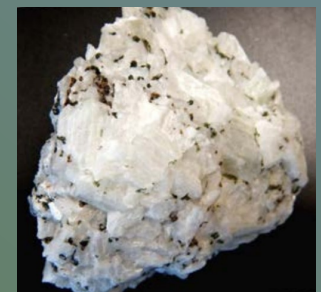
NEW YORK

STATE SIZE	54,556 miles ²
MEMBER OF NASLR SINCE:	1993
YEAR PROGRAM STARTED	1975, effective date of NYS Mined Land Reclamation Law
NUMBER OF ACTIVE MINES	1,765 permitted mines in 2021
# OF PERMITS ISSUED ANNUALLY	408 permits issued in 2021, consisting of renewals, modifications and new permits, each with 5 year terms
AFFECTED ACREAGE	114,385 acres authorized to be affected ¹ 60,661 acres currently active 9,922 acres reclaimed
TOTAL VALUE OF FINACIAL SECURITY	\$321,425,871 based on the currently active (i.e. affected) acres
TOTAL # OF STAFF	30 staff members, years of experience:
STAFF EXPERIENCE	17 % with >20 years 29% with 10-20 years 21 % with 5-10 years 33% with <5 years
NO. OF TIMES HOSTING THE NASLR CONFERENCE	5 (1997, 2001, 2006, 2014, 2022)

Notes: 1) acres authorized to be affected includes area currently active plus areas not yet affected but authorized to be affected in the coming 5 year permit term.



GARNET



WOLLASTONITE

New York's major mine types by mineral commodity are sand and gravel (1,396), bluestone (101), limestone (89), shale (52), sandstone (28), granite (23), dolostone (20), and clay (19). New York State continues to be the only domestic producer of wollastonite and the third largest global producer after China and India. Nationally, New York State ranked first in the US in the production of industrial garnet, and third in the production of salt. New York is also a significant producer of masonry cement and portland cement. An economic study completed by the Center of Governmental Research and the New York State Geological Survey in 2011 indicated that the total annual economic impact of mining in NYS is approximately \$4.9 billion.

New York's mineral fact sheets can be found at: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/minfactsht.pdf

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

SUBTITLE

I love it when a plan comes together

By Dean Spindler

You may recognize the title of this article as a classic line from the 1980's TV series "The A Team". If you have never seen the show, the A Team were a group of likeable, but misfit, experts in their field.

A major topic in the news these days is the great resignation of people in the workforce, people simply walking away from their careers. If I focus solely on long term hindsight, I have some trouble with the concept of walking away from a career. I had a long, successful career in reclamation, something I chose to focus on midstream as an undergraduate. I ended up four more years older before I actually got hired as a reclamationist. If I look at a more short term hindsight, I can remember several times over my 42-year reclamationist career when I considered exploring, and did explore, my options elsewhere. Most of these options were still reclamation related and included jobs with other divisions in the same agency, jobs in other states, jobs in the federal government, and jobs in the mining industry. The reasons for considering other employment were primarily not feeling the job satisfaction I wanted. That feeling was driven by a variety of things that seemed pressing at the time. For example, a very bad boss, wanting to be challenged and do more than my assigned role, money, or just plain thinking about doing something different, like teaching (my second job passion). You may recall that I have mentioned in a prior article the old Chinese proverb about choosing a job you love and, you will never work a day in your life. I recently read a quote from Warren Buffet with a similar theme as the solution to employee retention. How does this relate to this article title and reclamation? Well here goes!

As a reclamationist, whatever role you may play, have you ever watched over time as a mine went from beginning to end, ultimately fully reclaimed, and knowing you played a part in that? You may have been a permit reviewer that had some difficult decisions to make regarding what to reject and what to accept in the original permit. Your decision making may have been in habitat restoration, groundwater protection, farmland restoration, engineering, or the many other applicable technical fields. Maybe that permit was legally challenged, and you successfully defended your decision. Maybe that mine ended up being a reclamation award winner! As a field representative you may have had a difficult operator that you finally convinced that reclamation planning pays rather than costs in the long run, and they heeded your advice. Or maybe you finally convinced an operator to be proactive with you on problems rather than hide the ball...that ole' cooperative professionalism I have been promoting for years. Another success might be an operator who was not, but now chooses to be, a good neighbor with their adjacent landowners and local groups. Don't forget the old saying associated with Tip O'Neill... "All politics is



NOTES FROM THE FIELD cont.

local”. Good relationships between operators and the community almost always pay off. If you are an abandoned mine reclamationist or involved in bond forfeiture you might see a historical problem site now green, our professional favorite color! And in the case of forfeiture, you actually had enough money to get the job done right.

If you are not a field reclamationist but rather a program support person, doesn't it feel good when that new computer database or GIS program works to meet the needs of the agency? By the way, showing off these accomplishments at NASLR by giving talks at the annual conferences and having your peers show interest is a real boost to job satisfaction.

For those of you who are new to our chosen profession, if you have ever planned or seen a new house built, you can identify with this too. You find the lot, lay out the boundaries, draw the floorplan, find a reliable contractor, remove the topsoil, excavate the foundation or basement, build the house, dispose of any excess subsoil, put the topsoil back, and plant trees, bushes, and grass. During the entire process you will have to deal with delays, cost and plan changes, sediment and drainage control, building codes, government inspection, and perhaps disgruntled neighbors upset by a perceived “change” to their life. In 6 months, if all goes well, the property won't look like it did before construction, but it will blend into the local environment and be acceptable to the neighbors too.

Bottom line here is if you can build on the successes of your role in reclamation and find enough job satisfaction for what you currently do, or are lucky enough to have an agency or boss that allows you to expand your horizons (and maybe even pay more!), your plan (career) will come together.



To submit material for future newsletters:

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Please use a
[NASLR Newsletter
Submission Form](#)

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