



**NEWSLETTER**  
Spring 2014 Vol. 36 No. 1

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**2014 NAAML P CONFERENCE**  
Columbus, OH September 21 - 24

**MISSION STATEMENT**

1. To provide a forum to address current issues, discuss common problems and share new technologies regarding abandoned mine land reclamation;
2. To foster positive and productive relationships between the states and tribes represented by the Association and the federal government;
3. To serve as an effective, unified voice when presenting the states'/ tribes' common viewpoints; and
4. To coordinate, cooperate and communicate with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, Western Interstate Energy Board and all other organizations dedicated to wise use and restoration of our natural resources.

**Dear Membership,**

As many of you know, our February winter business meeting in Anchorage was very well attended. Members were treated to some true Alaskan hospitality, as well as an opportunity to learn all about and observe the start of the internationally acclaimed Iditarod dog sled race. Our thanks go to Justin Ireys and Samantha Hudson of the Alaska Abandoned Mining Lands Program, for all their hard work in coordinating the business meeting, and to TC Wait of Odaroloc Sled Dogs, for a fascinating lunchtime presentation.

Getting down to business, there were a lot of programmatic, legislative, and pressing budget issues covered during the all-day meeting. Greg Conrad, Executive Director of the IMCC, and Sterling Rideout, Assistant Director for OSMRE, travelled from Washington D.C. to give much appreciated updates and their perspectives on the difficult budget and sequestration processes, as well as the latest on legislative proposals and rulemakings now underway.

In light of these ongoing budget impacts, late last year the states and tribes, in cooperation with OSM embarked on a joint “SMCRA Government Efficiencies” initiative, which got underway in mid-January. Many state and tribal NAAML P representatives are working diligently with their OSM counterparts in three workgroups, tasked with exploring long-term funding trends for state and federal programs under SMCRA, and producing recommendations for increasing efficiency, saving costs, and improving programs. The

workgroups include “SMCRA Program Financial Stability”, “Training/TIPS Sustainability”, and “Program Efficiency”.

During the winter business meeting, NAAML P formally established its SMCRA Reauthorization Committee, to coordinate, communicate and cooperate with IMCC and OSM, in order to develop a unified voice and define common ground in representing the states and tribes as we move through the process in the next few years. There are eleven SMCRA committee members representing each region and type of program, all working under the capable guidance of co-chairs Murray Balk (KS) and Brian Bradley (PA). Thanks to all who volunteered for the committee; there is a lot of hard work ahead.

In closing, I’d like recognize the many years of service and dedicated contributions to NAAML P from a few members leaving our ranks. Lucia Malin and Loretta Pineda have retired from their Utah and Colorado state governments after long and dedicated careers, while John Koerth is moving to another gig in Montana’s hardrock mining regulatory program. And, by the time you read this (or shortly after), Steve Herbert will have also retired from Indiana state government this spring. Our deepest and sincerest thanks to each of you, with best wishes and good luck as you embark on new adventures!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Columbus in September!

**Best Regards,**

**Bruce Stover**

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## 36th Annual 2014 NAAML P Conference

The Buckeye State is excited to host the 2014 NAAML P 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Our staff has been busy working to ensure this year's conference is a learning yet entertaining and enjoyable experience for all who attend. We have a day packed full of tours that you can choose from highlighting some of Ohio's most successful reclamation projects, visits to one of the largest and most innovative wildlife conservation centers, or a tour to allow you to enjoy the sights and tastes of Columbus. Come to Ohio and partake in the educational technical sessions, meet with the numerous exhibitors that specialize in abandoned mine reclamation, and connect with colleagues from the many member states and tribes .

Registration is open! Visit our website [www.naamlp2014.com](http://www.naamlp2014.com) for more details and to find out what's planned during the week. The technical sessions slots are filling up, but abstract proposals are due June 1 so submit your information as soon as possible. Be sure to mark September 21-24 on your calendars for a great week in Columbus, Ohio!



### Historical Tour:

Explore **Shawnee**, a historical Ohio mining town tucked into a steep hillside. Considered one of Ohio's few remaining ghost towns still in existence, Shawnee has unique features certainly worth visiting. Shawnee's main street is full of old, beautiful buildings including the four story tall Tecumseh Theatre. It is one of the **Little Cities of the Black Diamond**, black diamond being the riches of coal found in the region more than a hundred years ago. Shawnee was founded in 1872 and its initial population of 1500 people doubled by the 1900s due to extensive mining but as the riches of southeastern Ohio were depleted, many of those in Shawnee and the surrounding community left for jobs elsewhere. The town still remains, a pretty picture of the past still visible to the eye. After spending time in Shawnee, this tour will continue on to the Wilds before returning to Columbus.

*Tecumseh Theatre – Shawnee, Ohio*

### Reclamation Tour:

Highlight of the Reclamation tour will be a visit to **The Wilds**. This private, non-profit wildlife conservation center is located in Muskingum County, Ohio. It is situated on 9,154 acres of reclaimed coal mine land and is home to over 25 non-native and hundreds of native species. The Wilds is the largest wildlife conservation center for endangered species in North America. Long-term reclamation research has been occurring at the Wilds for the past 10 years. Current projects include prairie establishment, reforestation initiatives, invasive species management, restoration of original forest habitat and wetland restoration. Before returning to Columbus this tour will stop at the

**Miners Memorial Park**. The Miner's Memorial Park is a monument to the achievements of the men and women of AEP and its subsidiary Central Ohio Coal. A key installation of the Miner's Memorial Park is the 220-cubic-yard, 240-ton bucket from Big Muskie. "Big Muskie" was the largest drag line ever built and it moved 483 million tons of rock and soil during its 22 years of operation.

*The Wilds*



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## **Columbus Tour:**

Travel to the epicenter of activity in Columbus during fall Saturday afternoons for a behind the scenes tour of **Ohio Stadium**, the home of the Ohio State Buckeye football team. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and constructed in 1922, Ohio Stadium was once the largest poured concrete structure in the world. Many facets of the stadium and its history will be explored. Next up is a tour of German Village, a nationally registered historic neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio, and lunch at **Schmidt's Restaurant and Sausage Haus**. German Village was settled in the early-to-mid-19th century by a large number of German immigrants, who at one time comprised as much as a third of the city's entire population. In the afternoon, you will learn how fine chocolates and mead are made with visits to **Anthony Thomas Chocolates** and **Brothers Drake Meadery**.

*Ohio Stadium – Ohio state University*



## **Call For Papers/Presentations**

### **September 21-24 Sheraton Hotel at Capitol Square 75 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio**

Abstract proposals should be submitted in PDF format on or before June 1, 2014. Abstracts should be 300 words or less, Times New Roman 12 font, and should include the presentation title, along with the presenters name, title, organization or company, business address, phone number and email address. Abstracts should be emailed to: [Benny.Mccament@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Benny.Mccament@dnr.state.oh.us).

Selected presenters will be notified by July 1, 2014, and final presentation material will be due on or before August 31, 2014. Details pertaining to the final presentation format, speaker guidelines and other presentation information will be provided to authors and/or presenters at the time of abstract acceptance.

If you are with a State or Tribe and intend to present, please indicate if you are applying for an OSM award or participating in the NAAML P business meeting on the third day of the conference. Presentations are anticipated to be 25 minutes.

Contact: Ben McCament **Phone:** 740-592-3748 **Fax:** 740-593-7086 **[Benny.Mccament@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Benny.Mccament@dnr.state.oh.us)** for more information and questions.

### **Suggested AML topics include, but are not limited to:**

#### **Reclamation / Project Implementation**

Unique High-Priority AML Reclamation Projects—Revegetation/Reforestation Success—Partnerships in Reclamation—Non-Coal Projects and/or Issues—Water Supply Replacements—Mine Fire or Mine Subsidence Projects—Abandoned Mine and Quarry Safety and Health—Backfilling Blocked Shafts or Shafts with False Bottoms—Innovative Reclamation Techniques—Stream Restoration/ Geofluvial Design—Physical safety hazard remediation techniques—Beneficial use of Waste Materials & CCB use at AML Sites —Dam Safety and Slope Stability—Sediment and Erosion Control

#### **Environmental**

Endangered Species Issues—Wildlife Habitat Enhancements—Wetland Mitigation—Permitting Issues at AML and/or AMD Sites —Management of bat populations at AML sites—Impacts of White Nose Syndrome on AML remediation—Remediation of environmental impacts from AML sites

#### **Remining / AML Enhancement**

AML Projects and Incidental Coal Extraction—Coal Refuse Reprocessing

#### **Technology**

Geothermal Applications using Mine Pools—Remote Geophysical Methods for Locating Underground Mine—Voids and Mine Pools—Integration of GPS/GIS/LiDAR Technologies into Reclamation—Digital Collection of AML data

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## Acid Mine Drainage

AMD Characterization—AMD use for Shale Gas Development—Addressing AMD in Urban Areas—AML or AMD Case Studies — Resource Recovery from AMD

## Cultural / Historical

Coal Mining Heritage/Historic Preservation Topics—Archeological issues and preservation at AML sites—Property Access Issues/ Good Samaritan Laws—Citizen Involvement in AML issues/projects

## Economics / Policy

AML Program Policy Issues—NEPA and/or Public Participation—Economic Development at AML Sites—Regulatory Issues or Barriers—Grayfields and/or Brownfields and AML—SMCRA rules and regulations—Long-term project planning (operations and maintenance)

## Mike Kastl Retires



Oklahoma's first and only AML Program Director, Mike Kastl, has decided to shelve his steel toed boots and retire this coming June 1. Mike began working with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission in 1975 as a Planning Assistant and later became the Assistant Director in 1978. The dust had barely settled after "SMCRA" hit the ground on August 3, 1977 when Mike began working with the newly formed Office of Surface Mining Regulation and Enforcement, a bureau within the US Department of Interior, to shape the national AML Program into what it is today. Mike made several trips to Washington, D.C. while working with OSM staff to develop regulations and procedures that would define the national program implementing Title IV of SMCRA. When Oklahoma's state AML plan was approved in 1982 Mike was appointed AML Program Director and will retire from that position.

Mike has provided exceptional leadership to the NAAMLPL since its inception. His background in state and national FFA programs as a vocational agriculture educator inspired him to pioneer the AML by-laws and to serve as the Association's de facto parliamentarian. He has been the voice of the Minimum Program States in keeping their priorities and concerns known to not only the Association but to OSM and Congress. In fact his knowledge and tenacity along with several others led to an increase in funding for the critically underfunded states in the 2006 SMCRA amendments. He served as Vice President of the Association from 1984-85 and as President from 1985-86. He also served two terms as Secretary-Treasurer from 1995-97. In 1982 he led his Oklahoma staff to host the first annual AML conference in Tulsa.

Under his leadership Oklahoma hosted the Association's winter meeting in 1994 and 2009 and co-hosted with Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri AML staff the 2009 annual conference in Rogers, Arkansas.

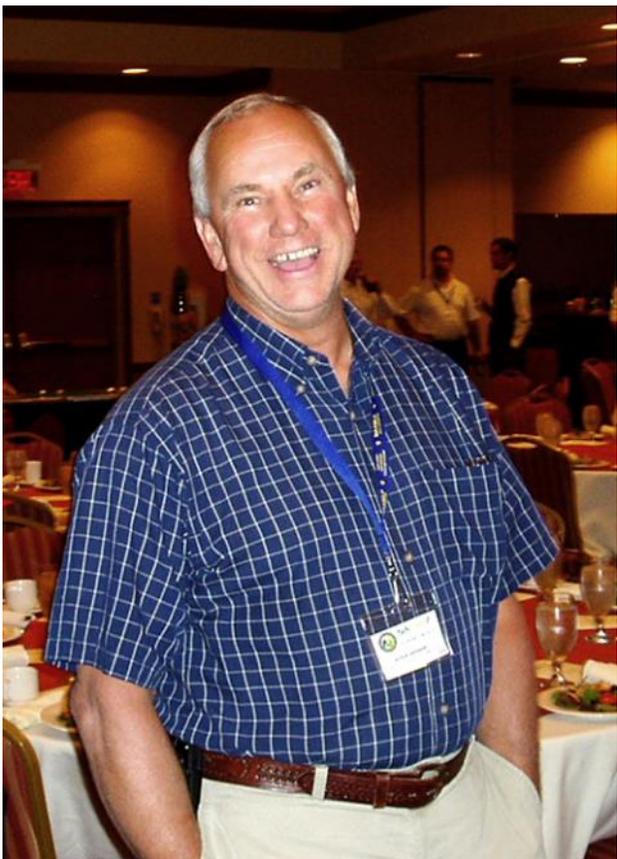
In 2006 Mike was the first recipient of the Dave Bucknam Outstanding Instructor Award. Mike worked with Dave and others to develop the first OSM-AML course offered to state and tribal AML staff. "Administration of Reclamation Projects" was first offered in May, 1991 in Norton, VA. Mike was an instructor along with Dave and Alan Kraps. Mike worked with Dave and others to develop other courses, including the Dangerous Highwalls AML Design course. Mike has imparted his vast knowledge and experience to hundreds of students from several state and tribal AML programs.

At the 2010 NAAMLPL annual conference in Scranton, PA Mike was awarded the Stan Barnard Memorial Award. This award is given each year to a person who exhibits qualities of outstanding dedication, commitment, and hard work toward the enhancement of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs. Mike certainly meets and exceeds the standards for every category of this award spanning his 31 years of leadership within the Association.

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Mike leaves behind some big boots to fill. He has set the bar very high. It will be challenging to say the least but we will strive to carry on the legacy he leaves us with. He blazed the trail through the jungle and leaves us with a paved highway to move forward. Thanks Mike and best wishes in your retirement years. Hopefully we will see you at a future AML conference.

## Steve Herbert Retires



On May 23rd of this year, long-time employee Steve Herbert will retire with over 31 years of service with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation. Steve began his career with the Department way back in 1983 when he accepted a position as a Project Officer with the newly formed Indiana Abandoned Mine Lands Program, making him one of the “founding fathers” of the AML Program. Just a year later, he was promoted to supervisor of the Program Planning Section, which he oversaw for 16 years. It was during this period that Steve gained a great deal of experience and knowledge of SMCRA and AML Program laws and regulations in particular. Then in 2000, Steve was finally appointed as AML Program Director, during which time he helped shape the Indiana AML Program into the highly productive and well respected program that it is.

Steve not only had a deep knowledge of AML program policies and procedures but also had a unique and innovative approach to running the Program. Under his direction, the AML Program was awarded the State of Indiana’s Quality Improvement Award in 2000 based on its progress in implementing quality systems, standards, and training designed to add organizational value and improve customer service and satisfaction. And in 2008, Steve himself received the Bureau of Resource Regulation’s Innovation, Distinction and Efficiency Award (IDEA) which rewards employees whose cost saving or revenue generating accomplishments or suggestions contribute to the efficiency or improvement of the agency operations and result in actual cost savings or revenue enhancement for the agency.

Steve has also been a great supporter of NAAMLPL, serving as Secretary/Treasurer from 2006 – 2007, Vice President from 2007 – 2008 and President from 2008 – 2009. And under his guidance, Indiana hosted two spectacular annual conferences in 1995 and 2007.

Steve was instrumental in setting up and administering the “Partners for Reclamation Program” which is a partnering project between the Sycamore Trails RC&D and the Indiana AML Program that provides an opportunity to help local citizens fix the adverse effects of coal mining on their property. These projects are typically too small and financially unfeasible to be done through the state design and bidding process, however, they are very important to the landowner to be corrected. Steve was also the driving force behind establishing the “Reclamation Re-Leaf Program” which was developed to establish healthy forests on previously mined lands to protect soil and water resources, provide wildlife habitat and eventually, timber production.

The Indiana AML Program is losing a long-time employee with a great deal of knowledge and experience. In his free time, Steve has always been very involved with his local community, serving on multiple natural resources related committees and “Friends Of” groups, and we’re sure he’ll continue to do so in retirement. On a daily basis, we anticipate Steve will most likely be found riding a bike or paddling a canoe with his wife or simply sitting on the beach with a fishing pole by his side. We wish him the best!

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## Calling all Member States!

### NAAMLPL Public Relations and Education Committee is Gathering Up AML Public Safety and Educational Materials

Do you have publications, promotional objects, or safety programs that were developed in your state to describe, inform, or caution the public about abandoned mine lands?

Our member states have produced numerous useful resources and shared them in past years. Our member delegates are retiring or moving on to other positions and new delegates may not know about the existence or availability of these resources.

The Public Relations and Education Committee of NAAMLPL requests your assistance in locating and acquiring examples of educational and safety materials that have been positively received in your program. This information will be developed into a comprehensive list of available resources with a brief description of the materials along with the most current contact information. We would also like to showcase examples and have copies available for hand-out at the NAAMLPL Annual Conference in Ohio from September 21-24, 2014.

Please contact Connie Loucks, Maryland Department of the Environment, AML Division

**E-mail:** [connie.loucks@maryland.gov](mailto:connie.loucks@maryland.gov) **Phone:** 301-689-1461

Materials can be mailed to the Attention of Connie Loucks, 160 South Water Street, Frostburg, MD 21532.

## Appalachian States AMD Set-Aside Meeting

Staff representing AMD Set-Aside programs from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky and OSM met on April 2nd, in WV, to discuss issues related to their respective Set-Aside programs. Each state representative described their program and the issues and concerns they've encountered. They described the types of treatment being utilized in their respective states. Treatment options ranged from passive to semi-active (lime dosers and lime sand) to fully active. Several states have encountered problems with keeping passive systems functioning properly and some have been abandoned. Others require more O&M than what was originally envisioned.

A common theme was concern over funding and resources for long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) of treatment facilities. Several states are attempting to build up long-term O&M funds that will allow the programs to continue beyond 2022. Otherwise, should there be no further re-authorization of Title IV funds, streams restored by AMD treatment projects may revert back to their original condition. All gains under the Set-Aside program will be lost without other sources of funding.

A related concern was a poor rate of return on Set-Aside funds, which makes it difficult to establish long-term O&M funding. West Virginia has made progress on this issue, although it required the State Legislature to enact legislation to allow for more flexibility on fund investment. A WV representative recommended that other state programs discuss this with their respective state Treasurers in order to determine what funding options are available and whether legislative changes are needed to allow higher rates of return.

The state representatives agreed to hold a panel discussion at the upcoming AML conference in Ohio in order to focus interest on these issues. Ben McCament of Ohio will lead that effort.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

400 - 500 words. Articles subject to editing. Submit in e-mail or hard copy. Include author's name, title of article, captions for photos. Submit photos in TIF (preferred) or JPG format, 300 DPI, and original photo size. E-mail photos as individual files, not embedded.

**Deadline for Fall Edition is November 15, 2014.**

Email articles to **Bob Scott** ([bobf.scott@ky.gov](mailto:bobf.scott@ky.gov)) or mail articles to: **Bob Scott**, Director  
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands  
Department for Natural Resources  
2521 Lawrenceburg Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601

For more information call **Bob Scott**, **Mark Meade** or **Ben Enzweiler** at 502-564-2141.