

Issue 7

Spring 2011

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources Review



Photo: David Hargis
Division of Conservation

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians by protecting our land, air, and water resources; utilizing our natural resources in an environmentally conscientious manner; creating efficient environmentally responsible ways of managing, conserving and sustaining our resources for future generations.



Commissioner's Corner

**By Carl E. Campbell, Commissioner
Department for Natural Resources**

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of all DNR employees, I want to offer our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and co-workers of Don Lam. Don, a 12-year forest ranger technician, was injured in a tragic accident while fighting a forest fire (see tribute to Lam on Page 3) on Sept. 7, 2010. Don passed away in February and will be missed by his DNR family and the folks he protected in his district. I, along with my fellow Kentuckians, greatly appreciate the dedication of men and women like Don who put their lives on the line to keep us safe. Don's exemplary service was recognized by Governor Beshear and the 2011 General Assembly.

Regrettably, the Scotts Chapel Road fire in Livingston County that fatally injured Don occurred as a result of an individual burning brush during a county wide burn ban. As commissioner, I intend to aggressively take on the problem of forest fires in Kentucky. If we are to decrease the number of fires caused by burning debris, we must follow the guidelines for burning debris safely and adhere to burning bans when they are issued. While the 2011 fire hazard season runs through April 30, the threat of wildland fires continues through the summer season.

Last year, 1,830 wildland fires burned nearly 56,000 acres. The Division of Forestry attributes 1,098 of the fires to arson. Arson is a felony under state law and is punishable by up to five years in prison and/or up to \$10,000 in fines. We need the help of every Kentuckian to prevent these fires. To help expose arsonists:

- Be on the look-out for unusual fires – arson fires are usually at night.
- Be able to provide information about location, vehicles, license plate numbers and suspicious individuals.
- Call the Target Arson Hotline at 1-800-27-ARSON.
- You may remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000 if the information leads to the arrest and indictment of an arsonist.

Division of Forestry Pays Tribute to Fallen Firefighter Donald Ray Lam Jr.

Lynn True

A longtime Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) ranger and wildland firefighter, Donald Ray Lam Jr., passed away on Feb. 17 after a courageous battle to overcome injuries sustained while fighting a forest fire in western Kentucky last September. Lam, 58, served as the forest ranger technician for Caldwell, Crittenden and Lyon counties and had assisted with fire suppression efforts on the local, state and national level for nearly 12 years. He was also a member of Cedar Bluff Baptist Church and a U.S. Navy veteran. Lam is survived by his wife, Jeannie Swatzell Lam; a brother, Ronald Lam of Goreville; a step-son, Dusty Cooper; and a step-daughter, Dakota Son.



Don Lam, the educator, plants a tree at Playhouse Daycare in 2009.



Lam (front row, left) on Black Frog Complex Fire in Idaho and Montana in 2003.

“This tragedy is a tremendous loss to our organization,” said Leah MacSwords, director of the Kentucky Division of Forestry. “When you think about what forest wardens do every day and the frequency in which they put themselves in harm’s way for the protection of citizens and forest resources, it makes you realize the commitment and loyalty that make up their character.” Lam, who had been in critical condition since the accident occurred on Sept. 7, received injuries while working the Scotts Chapel Road Fire—a 12-acre wildfire in Livingston County. Lam was clearing a fire break for containment at the base of a bluff when a burning snag broke loose on top and rolled off striking him from behind. The impact left him unconscious and with serious injuries including second degree burns. The Scotts Chapel Road fire initially spread from a burning brush pile during a countywide burn ban and charges are currently pending for the person responsible for starting the fire. “Our firefighters face serious risks during the line of duty and it is particularly unfortunate that this accident occurred while fighting a wildfire that was completely preventable,” said KDF Fire Management Chief Bernie Andersen.

Lam’s legacy is recognized by his family, friends and colleagues and he holds special honor in the firefighting community. Remembrances and condolences were received from fire departments, state forestry agencies, the U.S Forest Service and firefighter organizations from across the county.

Right: Lam in Idaho



Tributes to honor Lam and his family were also received across the state. Gov. Steve Beshear directed flags at all state office buildings to be lowered to half-staff on Feb. 21 and offered the following comments, “Jane and I send our deepest condolences to the family of Donald Lam. His courage and dedication to protecting our public safety is an example to us all. Let his life’s work and tragic death remind us of the extreme dangers of uncontrolled burning anywhere in the Commonwealth. Don served the Caldwell County community, the state and volunteered for wildfire assignments across the nation. His sacrifice for the protection of life and property is to be commended and honored.” The Kentucky House of Representatives also honored Lam by approving a citation offered by Rep. Mike Cherry, who called Lam a true hero in a very moving tribute. Following approval of the citation, the entire chamber gave Lam a standing ovation in acknowledgement of his service to the Commonwealth. A Senate resolution offered by Sen. J. Dorsey Ridley likewise honored Lam’s dedication and service and recognized his heroic efforts.



Lam (Back row, third from right) served in 2008 on the Evans Road fire in eastern North Carolina.



Lam in 2007 (second from left)



Lam assisting with a backfire in 2007



Lam in 2008

Division of Forestry Leads Fire Prevention Team

Lynn True

The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Division of Fire Prevention and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources joined forces on Friday, March 4 in an effort to increase public awareness about wildland fire arson. The team focused on the arson hotspots of Bell County and made a presence in the community by going door to door and talking with individuals about how to prevent and report arson. The team's goal was to encourage homeowners and landowners to protect their property and community from arsonists as well as to promote public safety and the safety of the wildland firefighters.

“After careful planning and collaboration between these agencies, we finally have a team of local law enforcement and resource officials that can focus on resolving the arson problem in southeast Kentucky,” said Jared Calvert, KDF district forester for the Southeastern District. “Our plan is to talk to residents about the arson problem, investigate areas of recurring arson and obtain information that could possibly lead to the arrest and prosecution of arsonists. We hope to continue these efforts and begin targeting all of our district's arson hotspots several times per year. We also plan to visit areas in Harlan, Clay, Rockcastle, and Whitley counties in the near future.”

Kentucky State Police Detective Joshua D. Bunch also noted the effort of the team saying that the community appreciated the attention and support and that the opportunity for agencies to work together will go far in the mutual goals of arson awareness, prevention and prosecution.

Arson is the leading cause of forest fires in Kentucky. Ninety-nine percent of all wildland fires in Kentucky are caused by humans. Some fires are accidental and may be the result of unsafe burning practices such as burning debris on a windy day or neglecting a burning brush pile or campfire. Even sparks from farm

equipment and vehicles can start a wildfire during times of dry weather, but sadly, most of Kentucky's wildfires are intentionally set. In fact, nearly 60 percent of all wildfires in Kentucky are caused by arsonists and these fires damage more than just forestland – they threaten homes, businesses and lives. Although most individuals are mindful of outdoor burning restrictions and otherwise use caution and common sense when it comes to fire, the recurrence of wildfires lies at the hands of just a few. These few are the arsonists who deliberately set fire for no purposeful reason. Setting wildfires, at least for some individuals, is a means to harass landowners, destroy property and retaliate against others. Arsonists are criminals and they typically have the same mindset as those who vandalize homes, poach wildlife and disregard other environmental laws.

Forest arson, defined as intentionally setting fire to land owned by someone else, is a felony under state law (KRS 149.380) and is punishable by up to five years in prison and/or up to \$10,000 in fines. For more information about forest arson and wildland fire prevention, please visit <http://forestry.ky.gov/wildlandfiremanagement/Pages/default.aspx>.



The 2011 Fire Prevention Team poses at its March meeting in Bell county.

CHIA, GeoMines and Shapefiles

New tools for mining data

Linda Potter

As Americans ponder the use of coal and its environmental impact, the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (DNR) has aggressively sought and received over \$477,925 in federal funds for environmental protection in Kentucky's coal fields.

An environmental scientist for DNR, Dr. Richard Wahrer secured original funding of \$327,888 from the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to streamline and improve the procedures regarding a Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment (CHIA). Additionally, DNR has been awarded two grants from EPA: \$50,000 to purchase water sampling equipment for the watershed assessments; and, \$74,537 for the advancement and implementation of a GIS-based coal mining database that will supplement the national GeoMine program. The latest award of \$25,500 came on April 7 from OSM for three intern positions dedicated to water monitoring data input into the Surface Mining Information System (SMIS).

To enhance the CHIA and GeoMines efforts and facilitate faster and more accurate permit review, DNR requires that new permit applications are submitted electronically and include GIS-ready maps. Reclamation Advisory Memorandum (RAM) 148 details how shapefiles of mine features will be submitted. A shapefile is a digital storage format that can be used with geographic information systems (GIS). Mine maps in this form will assist in the development of CHIAs—required prior to the issuance of a permit, enhance field inspections, and allow for live GIS mapping sites for citizens, industry and governmental agencies. GIS is at the heart of these efforts and interconnects them in a way that will provide for environmental protection and help DNR work more efficiently.

The GeoMine program will provide a collaborative vehicle to share coal-mining data including coal permit boundaries, critical watershed features, federally listed species and the status and success of land reclamation. The GeoMines effort complements DNR's recently developed online service that gives public access to vital watershed data, which may include surface water quality, benthic information, groundwater quality, water quality violations, pollutant discharge elimination information, maps, mine history and information regarding pending mines.

The files are packaged and organized by the watershed's Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), which is used to uniquely identify the watershed and to perform the CHIAs. Each of these "characterization" data packages contain between 25 and 35 files and each package is equipped with a Water Quality Results Viewer designed to enable individuals to view, filter, sort, graph and export groundwater and surface water quality data.

Carl Campbell, DNR commissioner, expressed his appreciation to both federal agencies. "They have been great partners in promoting this cutting-edge technology. The funding from OSM and EPA was critical in allowing us to develop these valuable online tools to supplement our existing water resources and mapping programs. Over the years, OSM's commitment to this department has given us the opportunity to provide the latest technical and geographical tools to ensure protection of coal field residents and their environment."

The watershed data packages are available at:

<http://minepermits.ky.gov/Pages/CHIA.aspx>.



The Division of Mine Permits GIS team (left to right) Amy Covert, Jeff Laird, Ambra Scott, and Daryl Hines. DNR photo

Kentucky Recognized at National Association of Conservation District Annual Meeting

Conservation leaders from across the nation met Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 2011 for the 65th National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting. The theme for this year's conference was "From the Roots Up" in reference to locally led conservation movements across the United States. Attendees to the conference, which included a group from Kentucky, learned about other conservation districts and state agencies and met with partners from other agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture and environmental protection agencies. The Kentucky delegation was also there to receive awards for outstanding individuals and their efforts within the KACD family.

NACD Friend of Conservation

Marvin Lee Bryant, Jr., Williamsburg, Kentucky

Bryant was recognized for his cooperative work with a dozen or more agencies, stewardship, research, education and outreach. He uses a wide array of natural resources management techniques and has greatly improved land that was once barren. His contributions have benefited Whitley County's wildlife habitat and provided other landowners with a better understanding of the protection of our natural resources.

NACD Distinguished Service Award

Pat Henderson, NACD Executive Board Member, Breckinridge County Conservation District Supervisor

Henderson was recognized for his leadership and contributions to the conservation partnership on local, state and national levels. He fought for funding and stability for conservation districts, served on his local conservation board for 30 years, held every office within the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts and chaired committees on the national level. Henderson was recently inducted into the NACD Southeast Region Hall of Fame. As a respected leader, he continues to inspire with his wealth of expertise, knowledge and passion for locally led conservation efforts.



Pat Henderson (left) receives the Distinguished Service Award at the National NACD meeting in Nashville from NACD President Steve Robinson.



Dan Ellison and Jeff Rice (left to right) accept the Top Ten Award from NACD President Steve Robinson.

Kentucky Recognized at National Association of Conservation District Annual Meeting

NACD Outstanding Conservation District Board Member *James Lacy, supervisor, Wolfe County Conservation District*

Lacy was honored for past accomplishments, including his involvement with district employees in planning national and regional meetings and serving on national committees. He was also recognized as Board Supervisor of the Year by the National Conservation District Employee Association. He has served on the Wolfe County Board for more than 30 years.

NACD Quality in District Official Training **Kentucky Division of Conservation (KDOC)**

Kentucky was one of 13 states recognized at the NACD Conference for its quality in district officials training. For many years, KDOC staff have worked tirelessly to give conservation district supervisors consistent and informative training. As volunteers in their counties, supervisors take on many administrative, fiscal and functional responsibilities. The supervisor training began in 1994 with a survey to all conservation district supervisors asking about training interests and needs in their local conservation districts. This led to the development of training that taught supervisors about leadership, the history of conservation and how things work on both the state and federal levels. Since 1994, many trainings have been conducted across the Commonwealth. DNR applauds the KDOC for their recognition by NACD for their continuing efforts of district official training.

NACD's Top Ten Award

The NACD Top Ten Award is given to the top 10 states that pay the most in dues to NACD. Kentucky routinely receives this award due to the fact that conservation districts respect the NACD's work and efforts on the national level as exemplified by Pat Henderson and James Lacy.



Pat Henderson and Steve Coleman (left to right) receiving the District Training Award from NACD President Steve Robinson

Steve Coleman Recognized for his commitment to the Conservation Partnership

Retiring State Conservationist Tom Perrin presented KDOC Director Steve Coleman the State Conservationist Award at the National Partnership Leadership Training Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

The State Conservationists Award is given to individuals who show leadership in building and expanding the Conservation Partnership.

In presenting the award, Perrin remarked, "Steve has used his wealth of expertise to reach out to other agencies with similar goals and pull all of those resources together to create a stronger, knowledgeable group that can work to put conservation on the ground."

Coleman has worked for the KDOC for more than 36 years and has been director for 17 years. He not only serves as a great contact for Kentucky's 121 conservation districts, but he also serves the landowners and producers by working with state and national agricultural/environmental agencies.

The Conservation Partnership includes the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kentucky Division of Conservation.



Steve Coleman (left) receives the State Conservationist Award from Tom Perrin.

Office of Mine Safety and Licensing Mining Update

Currently, there are 359 licensed mines in Kentucky - 165 underground and 194 surface mines.

From Jan. 1 2010 to Dec. 31 2010, OMSL conducted:

- 3,535 inspections
- 848 Mine Safety Analysis visits

From Oct. 1 2010 to Mar. 31 2011, OMSL:

- Trained and/or tested 18,601 coal miners
- Taught annual retraining classes to 172 metal/non-metal rock quarry miners

From Jan. 1 2011 to Apr. 1 2011, OMSL:

- Issued 60 underground mine foreman certifications
- Issued 83 surface mine foreman certifications
- Issued 40 other certifications

First Lady Jane Beshear Honors Arbor Day at the Mansion

First Lady Jane Beshear, Cabinet Secretaries Len Peters and Tim Longmeyer, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and others gathered on the Governor’s Mansion lawn to plant a tree for the 115th Arbor Day celebration.

During the event, the First Lady said, “Planting a tree today represents planning for the future of all Kentuckians.”

The American Hornbeam, also known as the Ironwood, will eventually grow to approximately 54 feet tall with a crown of 45 feet.



The First lady and Division of Forestry Director Leah MacSwords presented awards to the following groups for their participation in Division of Forestry programs: Bluegrass Energy (Treeline USA program), Centre College (Tree Campus USA), University of Louisville (Tree Campus USA), and Western Kentucky University (Tree Campus USA).

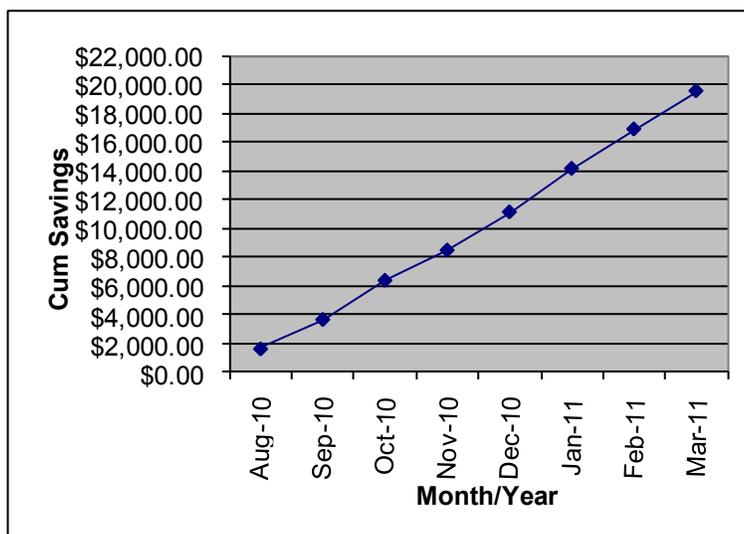
Tree City USA award winners were also recognized. These groups have planted hundred of trees in the past year. Following the ceremony, each attendee received tree seedlings grown in the state-owned nurseries to take home, plant and do their part in planning for Kentucky’s future.

Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement Realizes Savings

Electronic certified mail is a faster and cheaper means of delivery

DMRE recognized an opportunity for big savings in postal expenditures. David O’Hara, contractor for division of mine permits, researched and led the development of an electronic replacement for certified mail. Since August 2010, coal operations have been able to elect to have their enforcement actions sent by certified e-mail.

A letter that once cost \$5.40 to send, can now be sent for \$0.39. To date, \$19,520 has been saved as a result of implementing this emerging technology.



Self-Flushing Limestone Pond Used for First Time on Acid Mine Drainage Project

Corey Ann Howard , Division of Abandoned Mine Lands

Lower Rock Creek Phase III Abatement Project in McCreary County is the first of the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands' acid mine drainage (AMD) projects to utilize a self-flushing limestone pond as a part of one of its abatement projects. The Paint Cliff site of the project included several mine portals and acid producing coal processing refuse. Abandoned mines coal waste contaminated Lower Rock Creek with metal-laden and highly acidic water that negatively affected aquatic life living in, as well as, terrestrial species living around the watershed. Lower Rock Creek ultimately flows into the Upper Cumberland River.

A self-flushing limestone pond (SFLP) was constructed to treat AMD discharge from a mine portal.

The SFLP is a buried basin of limestone that uses the water that discharges directly from the deep mine. Mine water flows into the system, dissolves the limestone, and then leaves the system, degassing the carbon dioxide and raising the pH of the water. Prior to work beginning on the project, Paint Cliff had a median pH level of 3.0. Post construction of the SFLP, the water at Paint Cliff now has a median pH of 5.5 after exiting the SFLP and the acidity was reduced by 12 percent. As Lower-Rock Creek is currently being restored, the local watershed is once again an environment conducive for several kinds of small fish to thrive and for recreational fishing, wading and swimming by local residents.



Limestone gravel is placed in the pond to filter the drainage.



Channeled drainage assures proper delivery of the filtered water.

DMRE Inspectors In Action

Mine Reclamation and Enforcement inspectors protecting Kentuckians



Taking a field Hach test for iron contents from a discharging pond.



A new inspector receives a safety briefing from the pilot before performing an aerial overflight of her assigned permits.



A DMRE inspector filling out a mine inspection report to leave with the mine foreman before leaving the surface mine permit.



Measuring the amount of sediment in a sediment pond.



Geologist making notes during a field visit for a water well.



Inspector pin-points his location on a mine investigation.

Pendleton County Students Inspired to “Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life”

Lynn True

The U.S. celebration of the International Year of Forests (IYOF) was officially launched March 1, 2011 as citizens, students and resource professionals joined efforts to recognize the importance of forests. The IYOF campaign was initiated by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly that declared 2011 as the year to raise awareness about sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The objectives of IYOF are to reverse the loss of forestland, prevent forest fragmentation, enhance economic, social and environmental benefits and increase areas of sustainably managed forests.

The official U.S. campaign for IYOF is “Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life.” With the help and partnership of the U.S. Forest Service, American Forest Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, events and projects will be held throughout the year. The particulars of the campaign, including the upcoming international forest film festival, a calendar of forest-related events in 2011, preparations for the observance of Forests 2011, and much more can be followed on the IYOF’s Website at <http://www.celebrateforests.org/>. Schools, youth groups and environmental groups interested in participating in IYOF’s events can find a host of information on the site.

Among the more visible projects of “Celebrate Forests. Celebrate Life” are the Forest Exchange Boxes sponsored by Project Learning Tree and created by educators and students across the county. The display boxes showcase unique characteristics of America’s woodlands and feature items specific to the woodlands of each state. To help bring national and international attention to America’s forests, the boxes will be shared and shown at events throughout the year.



Kentucky’s exchange box was designed and constructed by the Environmental Science Club at Phillip A. Sharp Middle School in Pendleton County. Students were inspired to include natural objects, examples of tree and wood products, tree identification guides, literature, drawings and more to display Kentucky’s forest heritage. Through Kentucky’s box and other exchange boxes, students and viewers learn about who owns and manages our forests, what benefits come from forests – like clean air, water, and recreation – and how individuals and communities use, enjoy, and depend on forests. For more information about the forest exchange box program and other IYOF projects, please visit <http://celebrateforests.com/forest-exchange-box-program>. Kentucky’s box, as well as boxes from the other 49 states will be showcased at different events throughout the year.

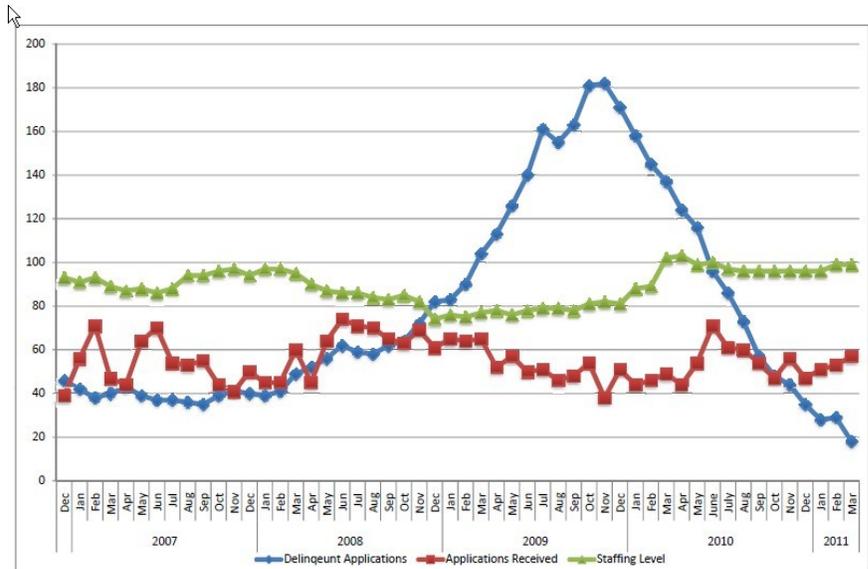
Division of Mine Permits in Uncharted Territory

Since Jan. 3, 2011, the Division of Mine Permits has required coal mining operations to electronically submit permit applications. We are now 100 percent electronic!

While other factors contributed to the decrease in delinquent applications, ePermitting played a major role by allowing four simultaneous reviewers access to the application, greatly decreasing the review time. Before ePermitting, the application went from desk to desk.

The delinquency rate is at a five-year low, less than 3 percent—down from 183 in November 2009 to 13 as of April 5, 2011.

When asked about the impressive decline, Mine Permits Director Allen Luttrell said, “We attacked the problem from several angles. I give a lot of the credit to our electronic processes.



We were also able to increase staff that had been decimated by budget cuts and we aggressively trained them. But just as importantly, our existing staff worked very hard work with a greater sense of accountability.

Federal/State Team Concludes Kentucky Ensuring Proper Reclamation

A recent study involving a team of federal and state experts reviewed 10 mine permits in the five regional offices. The study was to verify time and distance in contemporaneous reclamation, the back-fill and grading required by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

The study reinforced the diligence of our staff and confirmed that Kentucky DMRE inspectors are requiring proper reclamation of surface mining permits.



(left to right) Pictured at Czar Coal Corporation permit # 880-0163 in Prestonsburg is Regional Administrator Greg Weddington, Deputy Commissioner Larry Arnett, and Paul Rothman from DNR.



Mine Safety Review Commissioners: (left to right) Stephen Arthu Sanders and William Donan

The Office of Mine Safety and Licensing is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Mine Safety Review Commission this year. On Jan. 19, 2001, in a continued effort to protect coal miners throughout the Commonwealth, former Gov. Paul E. Patton signed an Executive Order creating the Mine Safety Review Commission (MSRC). Subsequently, House Bill 258 was filed and enacted into law declaring that the “highest priority and concern of the Commonwealth must be the health and safety of the coal industry’s most valuable resource, the miner.” Furthermore, the General Assembly determined that “mine safety can be improved by the imposition and enforcement of sanctions against licensed premises and certified and noncertified personnel whose willful and repeated violations of mine safety laws place miners in imminent danger of serious injury or death.”

Therefore, the Mine Safety Review Commission is charged with conducting hearings and resolving issues regarding licensees, coal operations, and other persons involved in the mining of coal in accordance Kentucky law. The process begins when the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety & Licensing (OMSL) files an administrative complaint with the MSRC. Hearings are held in accordance with KRS Chapter 13B before the commission.

The MSRC consists of three members appointed to four-year terms by the governor and are subject to consent by the House of Representatives and the Senate. Currently, the members are Stephen A. Sanders and William D. Donan. Currently a search is ongoing to appoint a third commissioner to this seat. Each of the commissioners must possess the qualifications of a Court of Appeals Judge and are bound by the Judicial Code of Conduct. They are required by statute to complete the 40-hour new miner training program provided by OMSL and to visit both underground and surface mining operations. In addition, each of the commissioners is certified by the Kentucky Attorney General’s office as an administrative hearing officer and conducts hearings in accordance with KRS Chapter 133.

When trees were huge...

Horses were strong and people were small, but brave. As Americans moved westward, they encountered virgin forests like the ones below. They toiled long saws to conquer the sequoia, or mammoth tree. While Kentucky has no trees of this magnitude, the Division of Forestry protects our best with their Champion Tree Program. Photos: Isismile.com



Division of Oil and Gas Responds to Emergency

March 25, 2011 will not be forgotten by the folks who live on Harrison-Newsome Road near Virgie, Kentucky. Teco Coal Co. had contracted Strata Services to pull cores for coal exploration. According to Strata employees, the drilling rig was pulling a coal core at a depth of about 360 feet, when employees indicated that an oil/gas zone had been penetrated. The oil and gas flowed to the surface around the annular space of the core barrel, came in contact with the engine of the drilling rig and ignited. The Shelby Volunteer Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire using a fire-retardant foaming agent. Division of Oil and Gas inspector Dean Cornett was onsite with representatives of the Emergency Response Team and Doug Tackett, Pike County emergency response coordinator.



Strata rig engulfed in flames.

Shelby Volunteer Fire Department use foam to extinguish Strata rig fire.



METs to the Rescue

Kentucky mine safety law dictates that a mine must have at least two mine emergency technicians (METs) employed on every shift engaged in the production of coal and at least one on every nonproduction shift. METs must be trained and certified to perform their emergency duties and their actions save lives.

On a recent spring day, a blasting crew prepared to fire a shot at a B&W Mitco surface mine in Clay County. They had been unloading a truck and were making final preparations when one of the men sat down on a nearby berm. When his co-worker called to him to check to see if he was alright, he was unresponsive. The co-worker laid him down and immediately called the company METs. The blaster closed his eyes, stopped breathing and had no pulse. The company METs arrived within minutes, repositioned him for CPR and opened his airway. He began breathing and regained his pulse. Meanwhile, 911 had been called and an ambulance was enroute. The METs administered oxygen and evaluated his condition until the ambulance arrived. The hospital confirmed that he had suffered a heart attack.

According to Ricky Johnson, district supervisor for OMSL in Barbourville, "Because everyone involved took their training as METs seriously, I believe that a fatality was avoided today. The victim's co-workers knew to activate the emergency system when he became ill. The superintendent made all the right calls concerning this situation that was developing. The MET made the correct decisions at a time when they were under great stress. The victim had lost his pulse, was not breathing, and had started turning blue. He is alive and talking this morning."



Mitco METs: (left to right) James Barnes, Earnest Russell Fuson, Tammy Combs, Chris Woodard

Special Thanks to:

- Corey Sanders, Travis Sanders and Stacy Campbell for coordinating DNR fundraising efforts this past quarter. These employees raised money for the March of Dimes and Bowl for Kids Sake, along with coordinated a blood-drive. The total amount raised for the charities to date is over \$4,000.
- George Renfro for tackling the problem of cell phone coverage for DNR in eastern Kentucky. As a result, a new contract was established with added service due to an expanded system of towers. Our users, which include mine inspectors, firefighters and statewide emergency first responders now have service where they formerly did not. 363 devices now have service under the new contract. Initial feedback from users indicates the success and importance of this initiative. It has made a huge difference to our personnel as they do their jobs.

Congratulations to:

- Billy Ratliff who was recently appointed by Gov. Beshear to serve as director of the Division of Technical and Administrative Support. Billy's appointment was effective April 1, 2011.

Contact Page

Department for Natural Resources.....502-564-6940
dnr.ky.gov

Contact our Divisions:

Conservation.....502-573-3080
conservation.ky.gov

Forestry.....502-564-4496
forestry.ky.gov

Oil and Gas502-573-0147
dogc.ky.gov

Office of Mine Safety and Licensing.....502-573-0140
omsl.ky.gov

Abandoned Mine Lands.....502-564-2141
aml.ky.gov

Mine Permits.....502-564-2320
minepermits.ky.gov

Mine Reclamation and Enforcement.....502-564-2340
dmre.ky.gov

Technical and Administrative Support.....502-564-6940
dnr.ky.gov/techadminsupport

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.....502-573-3080
heritageland.ky.gov

Contact our newsletter staff with comments or to be added to our distribution list. To [UNSUBSCRIBE CLICK HERE](#):

Evan Satterwhite.....502-564-6940
Evan.Satterwhite@ky.gov

Linda Potter.....502-564-6940
Linda.Potter@ky.gov

The Natural Resource Review is for public distribution - please pass along to others who may be interested. If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution list for *The Natural Resource Review*, please let us know. You may contact the newsletter staff at the e-mail above or by calling 502-564-6940. Learn more about the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources and its available services and programs at dnr.ky.gov. Please contact our writing staff with suggestions. Deadline for the submissions in the next issue is June 10, 2011.