



# VANTAGE

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## New State Director Installed at Eastern States

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, External Affairs,  
Eastern States



Photo by Don Cabrera

Director Kathleen Burton Clarke administers the Oath of Office to newly-appointed Eastern States Director Michael D. Nedd, while Cynthia Moses-Nedd (Mike's wife) stands nearby holding the Bible.

For over five months, Eastern States' employees patiently waited to hear news about the selection of Eastern States "new" State Director, since the departure of former State Director Gayle F. Gordon in January.

On June 7, Acting State Director Michael D. Nedd, became Eastern States' 7th State Director. In celebration, Eastern States' employees and guests gathered to witness the Oath of Office, administered by BLM Director Kathleen Burton Clarke, followed by a reception at the State Office.

As State Director, Mike will provide vision and leadership for the BLM's Eastern States, which is charged with sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public land and resources in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River.

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## WOW Received at the White House

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor and Theresa Jefferson,  
Environmental Education Specialist, Eastern States

On June 20, Washington DC Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) program representatives and campers participated at a fitness exhibition held on the White House lawn, where President George W. Bush announced his new fitness initiative, "HealthierUS." WOW brought their message of, "Unlocking America's Natural Health and Fitness Centers for City Kids."

WOW, a national program, is funded by Federal Agencies, BLM, local and private-sector organizations, such as The Walt Disney Company, the American Recreation Coalition, and the Coleman Company. These organizations worked with local partners, River & Trail Outfitters and REI, to provide tents, canoes, bikes, and more.



Photo by Tami A. Heilemann, DOI

President George W. Bush talks with WOW youngsters at the fitness exhibition on the south lawn of the White House in Washington, DC. At the event, President Bush urged Americans to make themselves and their nation healthier through exercise, proper diet, and regular checkups.

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## State Director's Message



Each spring, Eastern States has an unique opportunity to hire summer students and interns to help out during the summer months. These energetic and eager young people come from all parts of the country—many of whom just finished a semester at college and a few who just graduated from high school, awaiting their first year at college.

This year, we are fortunate to have a total of 26 students working at various Eastern States' locations, including 15 students at the State Office and cadastral field locations, 8 students in the Milwaukee Field Office, and 3 students in the Jackson Field Office. The students and interns are often selected on the basis of their field of interest in college and their desire to work for the Federal Government. This is an opportunity to provide them with work experiences covering a wide spectrum of careers available at the BLM, such as assisting with field survey crews, providing customer service in the Public Room, or performing office work in public affairs, support services, human resources, the wild horse & burro program, resource program, and information technology offices.

With the help of these summer students and interns, we are able to accomplish so much more work in the office and in the field in an effort to fulfill our mission and meet our goals. And while they help us with our projects and daily routine work, they are being introduced to natural resource management and the BLM culture, where they are able to learn new skills, work ethics, and gain more knowledge in their field of study for college. Their work opportunity here at BLM-Eastern States may even bring them back after graduation, should they choose a career with the BLM.

I would like to thank all of you, summer students and interns, for your interest in the BLM, and especially Eastern States. You have been a tremendous asset to our workforce these past few months, and I hope we were able to meet your expectations. On behalf of the employees here at Eastern States, I wish you great success in your future endeavors and hope to see you again.

**Michael D. Nedd**  
State Director, Eastern States

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*Front page: New State Director Installed at Eastern States and WOW Received at the White House*



Photo by Terry Lewis

Eastern States Director Michael Nedd and BLM Director Kathleen Clarke help a young lady with some fishing tips at Kids' Fishing Day, held at Constitution Gardens in Washington, DC, on June 3, during National Fishing Week. More than 500 Washington, DC Metropolitan Area school children, ages 8-12, learned about fishing and outdoor ethics. BLM sponsored 100 students from Garrison Middle School in Baltimore, Maryland.



*New State Director...continued from page 1*

Mike was born and grew up in Guyana, South America. He prides himself in being a diligent, energetic worker, who has sought to bring “quality” to the life of those he comes in contact with. Mike is a Minister in his local church. He and his wife, Cynthia, have five adorable children.

He has held numerous positions within BLM—serving as the Eastern States’ Associate State Director and the BLM’s Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) in the Washington Office. He also enjoyed a 3-month stint in U.S. Congressman James Clyburn’s office, where he analyzed and studied environmental issues as part of a developmental assignment. Prior to joining BLM, Mike worked for the National Park Service and the State of South Carolina. He also spent 8 years on active duty in the military and served in several highly specialized units, such as Special Operations Command and Military Intelligence.

Mike is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Theology from Andersonville Baptist Seminary and

has a Master’s Degree in Information and Systems Management from Strayer University. He also holds undergraduate degrees in Information and Systems Management and Business Administration. Mike has also completed several executive programs, including the Department of Interior’s Senior Executive Service Development Program, the Federal Executive Institute (FEI) Executive Development Program, the Office of Personnel Management’s Executive Potential Program; and the National Defense University, Advanced Information Resources Management Program.

Mike has a third degree black belt in martial arts and is a certified karate instructor. He has won numerous trophies and medals both in judo and karate, and was Guyana’s Junior Judo Champion. He enjoys officiating basketball and football and loves to play racquetball. Mike is a member of numerous professional organizations and serves as a mentor for Mentors Inc., in Washington, DC. He is currently on the Board of Directors of Shiloh Outreach Ministries, Inc. in New York State.

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## Wild Horse and Burro Volunteers Receive National Award

*Story and photo by Joy Pasquariello, former Volunteer Coordinator, Eastern States*

**V**olunteers Ron and Carol Pownall from Vicksburg, Mississippi, received the distinguished “Making A Difference Award,” presented by BLM Director Kathleen Clarke during the National Volunteer Ceremony in May.

The Pownalls have been volunteering for the Adopt-A-Horse or Burro program for the past 4 years. Since adopting their first mustang several years ago, the Pownalls have participated in every BLM adoption event in the State of Mississippi and have also traveled — adopted horses in tow — to neighboring states to help out. They have spent many hours working at adoption information booths, inspecting trailers, participating in adopter education seminars, and assisting in many other ways as required. Ron and Carol have also been involved in special horse-related projects, which include planning and filming an episode of the Animal Planet cable TV show, “A Pet Story.”



**Eastern States Director Mike Nedd, Volunteer winners Carol and Ron Pownall, and BLM Director Kathleen Clarke pose for a photo at the National Volunteer Ceremony in Washington, DC.**

In late 2001, the film crew joined the Pownalls at a Jackson adoption, where the couple took home a photogenic, 2-year-old stallion. The

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## Cooperative Effort Results in Brochure for Michigan Lighthouses

By Paul Salvatore, Realty Specialist, and Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

As early as 1970, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) started identifying lighthouses that were no longer needed to carry out its mission. To date, the USCG has filed relinquishment notices for 18 lighthouses on public domain lands in Michigan, and they have identified a total of 77 lighthouse properties for transfer through either the BLM or the General Services Administration in Michigan.

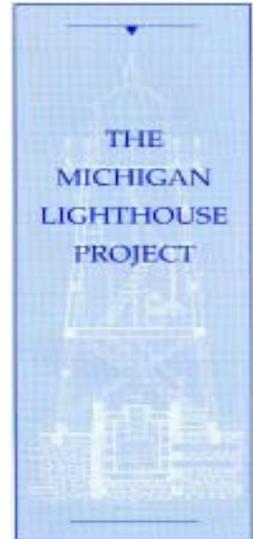
In 1998, the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network convened a meeting with representatives from Federal and State agencies, State and national preservation advocacy organizations, legislators, and other interested parties, which resulted in the formation of the Michigan Lighthouse Project (MLP). The MLP is composed of 21 agencies, organizations, and congressional/legislative representatives who hold regular meetings. Its mission is "to expeditiously transfer historic USCG lighthouses in Michigan to entities that will preserve them and ensure the public's access to these maritime treasures" and "increase public and government awareness of lighthouse preservation issues to identify ways to ensure their preservation."

As one of the founding members of the MLP, the BLM's Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office utilizes

the MLP to set priorities, identify lighthouse stewards, and establish contacts while educating other members of the MLP about the BLM's Recreation and Public Purposes Act transfer process.

The MLP's collaborative approach has achieved significant results, including the passage of the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000, sponsored by Senator Carl Levin (D-MI); the introduction of a bill into the Michigan State Legislature (S.795) to resolve bottomlands ownership issues; hosting a conference in June 2001 entitled, "Save Our Lights: Strategies for Saving Michigan's Lighthouses;" and development of a web site at [www.sos.state.mi.us/history/preserve/lights/milights.html](http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/preserve/lights/milights.html).

In the fall of 2001, the MLP agreed that more needed to be done to publicize its mission. As a collaborative effort by the involved agencies, a brochure was produced to introduce the public to the MLP. Now complete, it is hoped that distribution of the brochure will bring attention to the Michigan lighthouses and expand the level of individual involvement. For more information, contact Paul Salvatore, Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office, at (414) 297-4413.



### WOW...continued from page 1

WOW operates in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, Denver, Salt Lake City, and Washington, DC. The program provides urban youths with an unique opportunity to learn about camping ethics and have some healthy outdoor fun through an overnight campout, while exploring natural resources in their own backyards.

BLM's Eastern States' Program Advisor Charles Bush and Environmental Education Specialist Theresa Jefferson attended the event, along with several WOW campers, ages 8-12. Alexis Walls (Theresa's daughter and a WOW camper and Junior Counselor), spoke to the President and the First Lady Laura Bush about her camping, fishing, and hiking experiences with WOW. Also present at the exhibition were speakers Karen Kawanami from The Walt Disney Company and Ramie Lynch with the National Park Service, who

talked about the importance of partnerships and making the WOW program a success. For more information about WOW, visit the WOW Web site at [www.annapollard.com/~actnow2000/wsb/html/view.cgi-photos.html-.html](http://www.annapollard.com/~actnow2000/wsb/html/view.cgi-photos.html-.html).



Photo by Theresa Jefferson

(From left) President George W. Bush, WOW Program Advisor Charles Bush, Alexis Walls, and National Park Service Representative Ramie Lynch spend a few moments together at the fitness exhibition.



# BLM Distributes 2002 PILT Payments to Local Governments

By Bill Howell and Andrea Nygren, Washington Office, Public Affairs

Beginning July 1, the BLM sent almost \$210 million to approximately 1,900 local governments in accordance with the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act (PILT) for Fiscal Year 2002. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced that PILT payments are being sent three months earlier to help local governments budget for their fiscal years. Local governments (except Rhode Island, which has minimal Federal land) within the eastern states received almost \$28 million.

The BLM administers PILT payments, which are provided to local governments by the Federal Government to offset tax revenues lost because of tax-exempt Federal land in their jurisdictions. "PILT payments are essential to support vital community services—such as firefighting, police protection, and providing healthcare – in rural communities across the country," said BLM Director Kathleen Clarke. "By moving up the payments, we are providing counties with great flexibility to manage their budgets," she said.

Congress appropriates funds for PILT payments to eligible units of local government each year. The BLM calculates the amount of payments using a formula based on population and the amount of Federal land in a local jurisdiction. These payments are in addition to Federal revenues transferred to local government under other programs, such as income generated from the use of Federal land for livestock grazing, timber harvests, and mineral receipts.

This year's PILT payments of \$209,364,595 (nationwide) are an increase of \$10,203,715 over the payments for Fiscal Year 2001. Changes in payments are due to the amount appropriated by Congress and changes in other Federal revenues. For more information about PILT, visit BLM's PILT Web site at [www.blm.gov/pilt/](http://www.blm.gov/pilt/).

## 2002 PILT Payments by State

Alabama .....	\$ 744,420
Arkansas .....	\$ 2,807,672
Connecticut .....	\$ 25,204
Delaware .....	\$ 2,348
District of Columbia .....	\$ 14,940
Florida .....	\$ 2,913,111
Georgia .....	\$ 1,631,404
Illinois .....	\$ 548,595
Indiana .....	\$ 384,828
Iowa .....	\$ 215,922
Kentucky .....	\$ 1,447,043
Louisiana .....	\$ 266,172
Maine .....	\$ 168,964
Maryland .....	\$ 81,405
Massachusetts .....	\$ 60,880
Michigan .....	\$ 1,971,271
Minnesota .....	\$ 1,303,982
Mississippi .....	\$ 937,308
Missouri .....	\$ 2,122,737
New Hampshire .....	\$ 843,312
New Jersey .....	\$ 58,150
New York .....	\$ 77,247
North Carolina .....	\$ 2,044,276
Ohio .....	\$ 480,781
Pennsylvania .....	\$ 381,030
South Carolina .....	\$ 582,565
Tennessee .....	\$ 1,281,451
Vermont .....	\$ 430,799
Virginia .....	\$ 2,147,341
West Virginia .....	\$ 1,430,048
Wisconsin .....	\$ 564,377
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$27,969,583</b>

## Delta National Wildlife Refuge's Romere Pass Field Changes Operator

By Sid Vogelpohl, Assistant Field Manager, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

The Delta National Wildlife Refuge, a 48,800-acre refuge consisting of mud flats, marsh, shallow ponds, and navigational channels, is located at the southernmost edge of Louisiana. Deer, alligators, and about 240 species of birds live or migrate through the refuge, which is also host to the Romere Pass Oil and Gas Field.

450 billion cubic feet of gas. Jetta Production Company, which became the operator in early 2000, recently sold its interest in the Romere Pass Field to Clayton Williams Energy. During Jetta's tenure, the number of producing wells increased from 18 to 34. Jetta responded very positively to the field reviews conducted by Eastern States' Jackson Field Office, and the company has also fully complied with the well testing program for idle wells.

Oil and gas leases were issued at the field in 1949, and 96 wells have been drilled with cumulative production of over 100 million barrels of oil and

In November 2001, Jetta hosted a special seaplane tour for BLM personnel which included BLM's Washington

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## Hotshot Crew Experiences Worst Fire Season Ever!

Story and photo by Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

The 2002 wildland fire season is here, and it is already shaping up to be one of the worst in U.S. history. The Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew reported for duty on April 22, 2002, and after two weeks of extensive preparedness training, the crew was ready for the upcoming fire season.

On May 7, the crew departed Jackson, Mississippi, for pre-positioning on the Osceola National Forest in Florida, and within 24 hours, the crew was assigned to the Sandlen Fire on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. The crew stayed in Florida for nearly one month before being deployed to the Bullock Fire in Arizona, where approximately 19,000 acres were burning, threatening homes and a communication site on Mt. Lemmon just north of Tucson, Arizona. Containment efforts at this fire were hampered by hot, dry winds and steep, mountainous terrain. From Tucson, the crew traveled to New Mexico to battle blazes on State Forest lands.

Following some much needed rest and recuperation, the Jackson Hotshots were dispatched to the Cannon Fire in June on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada. This fire was burning approximately 21,800 acres and had even closed U.S. Highway 395. Then the crew moved on to fight fires at the Rattle Complex in Utah, where containment



**The 2002 Jackson Hotshot Crew, an elite wildland fire fighting crew and the only BLM-sponsored Hotshot Crew in the eastern United States, reported for duty on April 22.**

efforts were impeded by extreme drought conditions, limited access, and rugged terrain.

By the end of June, the National Interagency Fire Center went to a Preparedness Level 5, which means that over 550 crews had been committed nationally. The Nation was experiencing major incidents which had the potential to exhaust all agency fire resources. For more information about the Jackson Hotshot Crew, visit our Eastern States' Web site at [www.es.blm.gov](http://www.es.blm.gov), or to learn more about BLM's Fire program, visit BLM's National Interagency Fire Center Web site at [www.nifc.blm.gov/](http://www.nifc.blm.gov/).

### ***Delta National Wildlife Refuge...continued from page 5***

Office Fluids Group Lead Del Fortner, Eastern States' Director Mike Nedd, and Eastern States' Jackson Field Manager Bruce Dawson. All participants saw the sensitive nature of the surface environment, many species of migratory birds, and the excellent conditions of wells and facilities.

Jetta has worked cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to mitigate the impacts of oil and gas lease development. One significant mitigation has been construction of crevasses through the natural levees along the tributaries of the Mississippi River to create mud flats for wetland plants and birds.

Eastern States looks forward to a continued excellent working relationship with Clayton Williams Energy at the Romere Pass Field.

### ***WH&B Volunteers...continued from page 3***

crew then followed the newcomer's progress with his adopted family for one weekend. Ron and Carol became the perfect on-air spokespersons for horse adoptions, thanks to their enthusiasm for America's wild horses and the frequent rerun of the Animal Planet show, which has become a tremendous promotional and outreach tool for BLM's Adopt-A-Horse program.

The Pownalls have volunteered approximately 1,200 hours of service, which has an estimated value of over \$18,000. We, at BLM, truly appreciate all their volunteer hours, many miles on the road, and most importantly, their enthusiasm for the program. To learn more about the program, visit BLM's Web site at [www.blm.adoptahorse.blm.gov](http://www.blm.adoptahorse.blm.gov).



## Red-cockaded Woodpeckers Sighted

Story and photo by Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office



Red-cockaded woodpecker is pictured in a long leaf pine at Lathrop Bayou in Florida.

**R**ed-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) were recently discovered on a 180-acre tract of public domain known as the Lathrop Bayou tract in Bay County in the Florida panhandle. A total of 15 cavity trees were located, of which 8 were active. Four adult birds were observed and nestlings were heard in a cavity tree located, as nature would have it, right on the property line. There are likely to be additional birds found, given the number of active tree nest sites in the area.

A partnership survey crew was quickly assembled to conduct a more systematic search for cavity trees and map them with a Global Position System unit to determine responsibilities and cluster configuration. The survey crew consisted of Vice-President George Wilson, Senior Biologist Steve Shea, and Biologist Jim Moyers—all from St. Joe Company's Conservation Lands (Florida's largest private landowner who owns the adjacent 158-acre parcel), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's local RCW Specialist, Patty Kelly, Upland Specialist Stan Simpkins, Geographic Information Specialist, Wendy Gierhart, and BLM-Eastern States' Jackson Field Office Geographic Information Specialist Bob Schoolar and Wildlife Biologist Faye Winters.

RCW management has driven many of the conservation efforts to maintain remnants of the vast longleaf pine forests that once blanketed the South. Unlike other woodpeckers, RCWs excavate their cavities in live pine trees and need older trees (over 60 years), often longleaf pine, in open park-like settings to establish breeding territories. Each of the clusters consists of a breeding pair and helper birds, usually male offspring from previous years.

The Lathrop Bayou tract was already known as a virtual treasure trove of special status plants because of the high quality of the wet flatwoods habitat. Five Federally- or State-listed plants had previously been recorded. Bald eagles have been nesting on the site since as early as the mid-1990's. Bay County has already identified the area for conservation, and as an Ecosystem Management Area, where "extraordinary regulatory standards may be applied to protect natural resources." With RCWs now added to the list of residents, the tract's reputation continues to grow. We are looking forward to expanding the current planning effort for the tract to include broader partnerships. St. Joe Company has already signed on for collaborative planning to ensure that this very special corner of St. Andrews Bay can be managed as a whole.

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## Students Learn to "Fire Tag"

Story and photo by Patrice Junius, Outreach Specialist, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

**M**ardi Gras beads, five yellow safety helmets and an experienced member of Jackson Hot Shots were enough to play "Fire Tag" and to educate several Jackson, Mississippi, public school students about why fire is good, and bad, for trees on the public lands.

The game, "Fire Tag," was launched in April during a "Celebration of Trees," sponsored by the Mississippi Urban Tree Council, Eastern States' Jackson Field Office and several other Federal, State and private natural resource agencies who conducted tree activities with the children.



Hotshot Crew member Fred Ashford plays "Fire Tag" with students on the grounds of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, where many visitors come to see the BLM's Prescribed Fire exhibit.



## Milwaukee's Urban Tree House Participates in the 2002 "Great American Cleanup"

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

Last spring, Milwaukee's Urban Tree House site participated in the "Keep America Beautiful—Great American Cleanup," in the Midtown neighborhood of Milwaukee, just one of the many sites that helped out in this effort across the State of Wisconsin.

The event was facilitated by the city of Milwaukee's Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful non-profit organization, and coordinated by Site Coordinator Lucille Bennett, of the Midtown Neighborhood Association (MNA), Martha Malik of BLM's Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office, and Janet Growchoski of the Friends of Lynden Hill Group in Milwaukee.

The "Great American Cleanup" is the nation's largest annual grassroots beautification, litter cleanup, and community improvement program. It brought families, friends, businesses, colleges and universities, neighborhoods, community-based



Photo by Betty Glosson, MNA

Nearly 200 volunteers came out on a blistery, winter morning in an effort to help clean up the Midtown neighborhood. Milwaukee County gave passes to the volunteers, granting free entrance to the zoo or waterslide park.

organizations, and corporate teams together to work toward some common goals—to give Milwaukee a good spring cleaning and increase pride in neighborhoods and communities.

## Eastern States' Adopted School Meets Author, Lynn Cheney

By Marcella A. Davis, Program Specialist, Environmental Education Staff, Eastern States

Approximately 18 students from Eastern States' adopted school, Miner Elementary School, were invited to meet and hear author Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney, present ideas from her new book entitled, "America: A Patriotic Primer," at the Department of the Interior's Sidney R. Yates Auditorium in Washington, DC.

Mrs. Cheney, a longtime advocate for improving history education in America, talked with the students and family members and more than 200 additional children from Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and four other Washington, DC area elementary schools. She shared with everyone that "America's story is a compelling one, and it helps us understand how fortunate we are to live in freedom."

## Race for the Cure



On June 1, BLM-Eastern States' employees, families, and friends came together on the grounds of the Washington Monument to participate for a 3rd year in the Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure," the world's largest 5K walk/run. The race is an international effort established to benefit breast cancer research. Pictured (from left) are: Nellie Blue, Theresa Coleman, Michelle Kniceley, Gena Kniceley, Cindy Kahn, Kate Marks, Aggie Marks, Fatemeh Ezzati, Andrea Nygren, Myra Musialkiewicz, Tanya Spann, and Teri Wilson.



## Employee Feature--Troy Ferone, Archaeologist, Milwaukee Field Office

By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

In December 2001, after 8 years with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Troy Ferone, joined the BLM-Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office, in Wisconsin. While employed at the USFS, Troy served as Forest Archaeologist for the Ottawa National Forest in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Before that, he was a graduate research assistant at Michigan State University, where he specialized in the archaeology of the Upper Great Lakes Region. He also spent time conducting archaeological and ethnological field work in Botswana, Africa.



Troy Ferone, Archaeologist, Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office

Photo by James Engstrom

Troy received his B.A. degree in Anthropology from Ohio State University and his M.A. in Anthropology/Archaeology from Michigan State University. He has conducted extensive research into the prehistoric acquisition, use, and exchange of copper resources throughout the Upper Great Lakes Region. Troy worked with a variety of partnerships to preserve and interpret cultural resource sites throughout the Lake Superior area. He has been involved with partnerships established with local Native American communities to identify and protect prehistoric, historic, and traditional cultural resources located on Federal lands. Recently, Troy gave a presentation

entitled, "What's For Lunch: Prehistoric Foodways of Wisconsin's Earliest Residents," to the Decker's Corners 4-H club, in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

Sharing in the transition from the Upper Peninsula to the Milwaukee area are his wife, Jill (also an archaeologist), 5-year-old daughter, Madeline, and 3-year-old son, Garrison. Troy enjoys running, fly fishing, and a variety of other sports. He feels very fortunate to have the opportunity work for an agency like the DOI-BLM, that is a steward for so many exciting cultural and historical resources.

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## Fishing Around and Learning Too!

By Magnolia Barnes, Student Temporary Employment Program, Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

On May 18, employees from the Jackson Field Office (JFO), once again welcomed over 85 kids, ages 5 to 12, to take a walk through "Pathways to Fishing." The fishing event was co-sponsored by the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the Jackson Bass Club and held at Mayes Lake at LeFleur Bluff State Park in Mississippi.

Girl Scouts and other participants learned "hands on" how to catch a fish and about aquatic ecology and angler ethics. Experienced anglers from the Jackson Bass Club and Museum of Natural Science gave instruction to the young anglers as they traveled through each pathway. Following each lesson, the anglers had an opportunity to practice what they learned, taking home not only newly-learned skills about fishing, but even a bag full of fish.



Photo by Patrice Junius

Young angler, Dianah McNair, proudly shows off her first catch at the "Pathways to Fishing" event. Volunteers from the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the Jackson Bass Club, and Eastern States' Jackson Field Office helped out with pathway instruction, registration activities, and fishing on the pier.



# ES Happenings

The June 2002 Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) Internet Adoption closed on June 12. The selection of animals included gentled horses from prison training facilities in Wyoming and Colorado and wild horses from the Salt Lake City, Utah corrals. Three jenny burros and 36 wild horses went to 26 high bidders, who came from across the country. The high bid of the adoption was made for a 3-year-old grulla mare at \$1,300, and the average bid was for \$209 per animal. During the 3-week adoption period, over 40,000 visitors logged onto the WH&B Web site. We received our 1 millionth visitor to the WH&B Web site in July. To date, 562 animals have been adopted through the site since it went online May 1998.

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Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office provided and staffed an exhibit for two days at the Wisconsin Geological Society's Annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show in mid-May. The show attracts thousands of area residents and students each year.

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For the 9th year, Eastern States' Jackson Field Office Geologist, Lars Johnson, spoke to educators in June about "Rocks and Minerals: How We Use Them," at the Teacher's Conservation Workshop in southern Mississippi.

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After continuing negotiations between the Audubon Society and BLM-Eastern States and a planning review, BLM will transfer the Milwaukee River Islands to the Audubon Society through a Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 Section 203 sale.

\*\*\*\*\*

Eastern States' Jackson Field Office signed a memorandum of understanding and an interagency agreement with the Corps of Engineers (COE) in New Orleans, Louisiana, whereby the COE will prepare an Environmental Assessment to address leasing of 8,000 acres near the mouth of the Mississippi River for oil and gas exploration and development.

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Once again, Eastern States helped to organize and participated in the Outdoor Writers Association of America conference, held in Charleston, West Virginia, during the week of June 21-25. BLM played a major role in the activities during the week, where over 800 outdoor writers were in attendance.

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From May 22-27, Eastern States' Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialist, Shayne Banks, participated in the opening of the Disney-animated movie "Spirit—Stallion of the Cimarron," in Orlando, Florida. Shayne staffed a Wild Horse & Burro booth and exhibit, promoting the Adopt-A-Horse program. Over 10,000 people attended throughout the week.

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Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office attended the "Midwest Natural Resources Group" meeting at Cuyhaoga Valley National Park, near Cleveland, Ohio, in mid-June. Major topics included presentations on various watershed restoration projects; establishment of an interagency system for tracking wetland gains and losses; Corporate Wetlands Partnerships; and preparation for the Environmental Roundtable meeting to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, November 13-14.

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Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office negotiated a Federal Unit Agreement with B.D. Deans, LLC, affecting unleased Federal and leased State and private lands in the Manistee National Forest under a very tight deadline. The first well in the unit was a wildcat well with an estimated initial flow rate of several million cubic feet per day of gas from a relatively shallow depth. The well was drilled on a well pad for a deep exploratory well that had been completed as a dry hole about 10 years earlier and rehabilitated as an open field.

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On June 27, BLM-Eastern States and U.S. Customs employees, along with several walk-in customers, donated 35 whole units of blood in a drive, sponsored by the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross at the State Office. Thanks to all who gave the "gift of life!"

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BLM-Eastern States held a Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia on July 11, 2002. Oil and gas representatives from 6 states vied for 63 parcels of Federal land in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, and Mississippi. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue totalled \$322,064 from the 34 parcels sold. Of the total income, over \$281,000 came from lands in the Corps of Engineer's Blue Mountain Lake Project in central Arkansas. The successful bidder for all tracts in the project area was Seeco, Inc., from Fayetteville, Arkansas. They submitted the highest per acre bid of \$67 per acre for a 2,449-acre parcel, totalling \$167,832.

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## Employee Scene

### Star Awards

**Elizabeth C. Allison, Land Use Planner, Jackson Field Office**, was awarded a Relocation Home Marketing Incentive Star Award, for achieving tangible savings for the BLM through her initiative and hard work in selling her own home. She saved the Federal Government thousands of dollars in Relocation Service Contract fees and supported the agency's efficiency initiatives.

**Tammy M. Kneip, former Accounting Technician, Public Room-State Office**, for making a valuable contribution through her very successful accomplishment in designing, formatting, and organizing the material for the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Handbook for Eastern States Accounts Office. Tammy succeeded in this project in addition to performing her regularly assigned duties in an exemplary fashion.

**Terry Lewis, Chief, External Affairs-State Office**, for going the extra mile in finalizing the draft Meadowood Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment document without hesitation, working late into the evenings and on weekends. Because of his dedication, commitment, and leadership, Eastern States was able to present the public with a planning document that clearly articulated the issues, challenges, and proposed alternatives for managing the Meadowood public land and its related resources.

**Clay Moore, Judith Pace, John Reiss, and Faye Winters, Jackson Field Office**, for work accomplished on the Oil & Gas NEPA Team and, specifically, for work done in regards to leasing. The Team was challenged to reduce the backlog of pending field and environmental reviews with nominations ranging from 10 acres to 17,000 acres, that had been backlogged for as long as 10 years. The backlog was reduced to a manageable level while Team members continued their work on other high priorities.

**Joy Pasquariello, former Volunteer Coordinator, External Affairs-State Office**, in recognition of superior efforts in assisting with rewriting and editing of the draft Meadowood Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment document. Joy's direct assistance resulted in a much more readable and understandable document. She spent numerous hours after her regular tour of duty and during the weekends to help complete this intense and exhausting project.

**Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, External Affairs-State Office**, in recognition of superior efforts in producing a top-quality FY 2001 annual report for BLM Eastern States. As editor, Peggy compiled and assembled input from numerous sources to produce a cohesive document that is easily read and understood, appealing to the reader, and accurately portrays the mission and vision of the BLM Eastern States. She worked diligently to produce this publication on deadline and worked effectively with the Denver Federal Center to produce this top-quality product.

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## Comings & Goings

(April 1, 2002, through June 30, 2002)

**New Employees.**—*Aaron Gornick*, Range Technician, Jackson Field Office; *Cynthia Kahn*, Staff Assistant, Division of Resource Planning, Use and Protection; *Frankie Morgan*, Office Automation Assistant, Cadastral Survey; and *Mark Wotruba*, Surveying Technician, Cadastral Survey.

**Transfers.**—*Joy Pasquariello*, Volunteer Coordinator, External Affairs to Department of Transportation, Washington, DC.

**Retirees.**—*Barbara Colledge*, Employee Development Assistant, Human Resources

**Summer Students and Interns/Temporary Hires.**—**Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), State Office:** Milli Alam and Aaron Holmes; **Milwaukee Field Office:** Bryce Barlan; **Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP), Jackson Field Office:** Magnolia Barnes, Jodi Dickey, and Johnathan Hays; **Milwaukee Field Office:** Terra Goff; **State Office:** Raina Brathwaite, Roya Vasseyy-Yeganeh, Daniel Baker, Erika Navia, Elon Hudson, Tikica Scott, Jahleel Hudson, and Robyn Nickles; **Diversity Students, State Office:** Mira Rai and Feliz Mora; **Resource Apprenticeship Program for Students (RAPS), Milwaukee Field Office (America's Outdoors):** Nicole Flenori; **Minority Access, Jackson Field Office:** Derrick Dease; **Temporary, Jackson Field Office:** Jason Brown, Josh Hampton, and Juston Rose; **State Office:** Benita Wynn, Blake Johnson, Christopher Bailey, Adam Lyons, Mark Martin, Kenneth Olsen, Matthew Philbrick, and Jennifer Piper; **Intern, Milwaukee Field Office:** Paul Vopraskas; and Carolyn Seramur, Ryan Rysewyk, Heidi Hancock, and Rainbow Wulfeck—all from **America's Outdoors.**



## Eastern States Says “Goodbye” to Long-time Employees

Photo by Milli Alam



Employee Development Assistant Barbara Colledge (center) enjoys her retirement party at the State Office with family members—husband Charles (left), daughter Diane, and beloved grandson, Noah.

Photo by Don Cabrera



After 18 years at Eastern States, Volunteer Coordinator Joy Pasquariello leaves BLM to join the Department of Transportation as a Public Affairs Specialist. External Affairs Chief Terry Lewis offers Joy a “gag” gift at her farewell luncheon.

**Eastern States Mission** — We will continue to play a central role in fostering the acquisition, management, and conservation of public lands and their resources spanning the 31 States east of and bordering the Mississippi River. Major programs include: Cadastral Survey, General Land Office Records, Wild Horse & Burro, Lands and Realty, Renewable Resources, Minerals, and Fire.

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### Comment Card/E-mail Briefs

**General Land Office**—“I want to thank you for the outstanding results from all of your work, especially, in light of the court’s decision to shut you down for a while. The site is very well designed and easy to use. This is one of the very best sites on the web, and certainly the best of any gov site.” *Larry Singleton*

**Wild Horse & Burro**—“I really love what you are doing and you guys have done a great job. I got a horse at Lake St. Louis, and I thought he was the most beautiful horse in the world. He was a 2-year-old bay. I took him home and named him “Dakota.” I can now pet him and hug him all the time, and I taught him not to bite. I love Mustangs!” *Megan Wilson*

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, Virginia 22153**

**OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300**



*Eastern States — committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.*

