

VANTAGE

Eastern States Shares in Vice Presidential Hammer Award for National Public Lands Day

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States

On September 23, 2000, BLM employees from the Eastern States Office and the Washington Office worked with volunteers to improve our Nation's public lands on National Public Lands Day (NPLD). Since 1994, NPLD has grown from just three sites to 277 sites across the country. In 1995, BLM's Eastern States Office held its first Northern Virginia Pohick Bay Regional Park event in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, and this strong partnership continues to this day. This year, the BLM-led interagency team received the Vice Presidential Hammer Award.

In the East, volunteers came together to help with work on the public lands in Missouri, Wisconsin, Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia. In Virginia, more than 130 volunteers worked over 800 hours at the Pohick Bay, Upton Hill, and Washington & Old Dominion Trail sites. They built an erosion control retaining wall by the river, constructed two new trail re-routes, rebuilt water bars on one section of trail, and added crushed bluestone and water bars at another trail. Additionally, they landscaped, built a rock garden, and planted ornamental grasses and a variety of shrubs for erosion control.

Joe Zilincar, Assistant Chief, External Affairs led the effort in Virginia, with help from REI for advertising and expertise on trail projects. A local restaurant, Pizza Deli, helped again with lunches for the busy crew.



Photo by Joy Pasquariello

Volunteers construct a retaining wall at Pohick Bay Regional Park in northern Virginia.

What's Inside

SD's Message	2
National Public Lands Day	3
Hatfield-McCoy Trail Opens	5
Tutoring Program	5
Transfer of Mineral Rights	6
B.I.T.E Day at JFO	6
Celebration of Heritage Months	7
First WOW Ceremony	8
America's Outdoors	8
Realty Program Goes Online	9
Emergency Gathers—A Sight to See!	10
Roadside Cleanup in Record Time	10
ES Happenings	11
Employee Scene	12
Comment Card/E-Mail Briefs	12

Guardians of the Past — Stewards for the Future

... sustaining the public lands in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River.



State Director's Message

I want to wish all of you the very best for the coming year. With all that is underway and the changing administration, 2001 promises to be an exciting time. We will keep you informed of the new administration's priorities for BLM and especially Eastern States.

During the last 3 months, we have seen progress on a number of fronts:

• The Meadowood Farm donation from Fairfax County in Virginia to the Department of the Interior is proceeding well. It appears set to happen later this year.

• The Lower Potomac River Land Acquisition Project is progressing and a memorandum of understanding was signed in December by BLM, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR), Charles County, and the Conservation Fund. Public meetings will be held in the near future to hear from the public and interested stakeholders. The intent is to hear directly from the community about issues and options related to acquisition and management of the land by the Federal and State Governments. Both BLM and MD-DNR have received funding for land acquisitions.

• BLM, Eastern States entered into an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Eastern Region and the National Park Service, Midwest Region to improve agency efficiency and to continue to provide better service to the public in the area of natural resources management. The agencies have similar mandates, programs, regulations, and land issues.

• The Urban Tree House Partnership involving the America's Outdoors, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Midtown Neighborhood Association, and other groups has been completed. This partnership establishes the roles and responsibilities of parties for planning, development and operations of facilities and programs at Lynden Hill in Wisconsin.

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 Adoptions, Energy & Minerals, and Communication.

For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713, or visit our Web site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/>. Editor: M. M. Riek

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• The Jackson Hotshot Crew has finished extensive recruiting and is now in the hiring stage — the best crew yet! In mid-February, some of the crew will be working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) in Savannah, Georgia to write and implement a Prescription Burn Plan. They also plan to do some prescribed burning in the State of Texas. Eighty hours of training and physical fitness tests will take place in May, and the crew will be ready for national deployment in early June.

• The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for America's Outdoors, a visitor information center and storefront in Wisconsin has been developed, adding two new agencies — USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the USF&WS. This MOU builds on the existing agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.

• Volunteer activities flourished with Eastern States' Adopt-A-Highway program, the last of six Wonderful Outdoor World camp-outs, and National Public Lands Day.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for making 2000 such a successful year for all of us in Eastern States, and we can look forward to an even better 2001.

Director, Eastern States



NPLD Celebrated at Milwaukee's Urban Tree House Site at Lynden Hill

By Jim Boylan and Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialists, Milwaukee Field Office

With the spirit of bringing an awareness and deep appreciation for the public lands, the Milwaukee Urban Tree House at Lynden Hill celebrated another National Public Lands Day event in late September, beginning with the Ceremonial Tree Planting at the site.

Speakers at the event included BLM's Milwaukee Assistant Field Manager Chris Hanson, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, representative Ruth Voltz, and invited dignitaries, including former Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes, who offered the message of reflecting on the public lands and touching and feeling nature. He also noted that it was empowering to see the State and Federal Governments working together for the common good of the Nation. Associate State Director Mike Nedd emphasized that the Milwaukee Urban Tree House is a key component to the city and that everyone in the community of Midtown is a factor in making this venture a success. Other speakers included Laurie Kuiper from Mayor Norquist's Office; Milwaukee Alderman Willie Hines; Gene Francisco, Chief State Forester, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Susan Mudd, Director, Citizens for a Better Environment.

Milwaukee Field Office employees and local volunteers joined together for activities throughout the day to plant, weed, mulch, and general cleanup. Volunteers and children enjoyed nature stations, the Alien Invaders-Milwaukee Weed Out Program,



Photo by James Engstrom

NPLD volunteers help maintain a flowerbed at Milwaukee's Urban Tree House Site at Lynden Hill in Wisconsin.

sidewalk chalk drawing and face painting by the Milwaukee Public Theater representatives, and a free lunch provided by the Midtown Neighborhood Association.

The Milwaukee Urban Tree House at Lynden Hill is a partnership involving neighborhood residents, organizations, and government agencies who work together to protect the open green space of Lynden Hill through neighborhood involvement, events, site enhancements, and environmental education programs. It is also a place for children to learn about nature and the environment, play, and hold family gatherings and community events.

Double Duty for Jackson Field Office

By Clay Moore, Natural Resource Manager and Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

The Jackson Field Office (JFO) worked double duty this year by hosting two NPLD events, one in Jupiter, Florida

and another in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. At Jupiter, local Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts and the Jupiter High School Environmental Field Studies Academy

Continued on page 4

NPLD...continued from page 3

pulled rosary peas, picked acorns and potted thousands of mangroves at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area. Approximately 101 youths participated in this 4th annual event with this year's focus to remove invasive plant species and to pot and plant mangroves. About 125 mangroves were planted in lowland areas bordering the Intercoastal Waterway, and over 3,000 mangrove seedlings were potted and will be planted when they mature.

Another special project involved pinpointing gopher tortoise burrows using a Geographic Positioning System tracking system. This was the senior school project for one of the high school students who was assisted by six of his classmates. Once all the information is collected, the senior student will send the information to the JFO so the tortoises can be monitored more effectively.

On the picturesque Big Saline Bayou, on public domain land in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, approximately 50 volunteers, Junior High and High School students and their parents, participated in cleaning up the tract at the first NPLD event to be held in Louisiana. Within 1 1/2 hours, the group filled approximately twenty 39-gallon plastic bags with aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, and miscellaneous household trash. Larger items such as a small discarded freezer and car seat were also brought to a central location to be picked up by the local Sheriff's Department. During the event participants also had the opportunity to listen



Big Saline Bayou, on public domain land in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. JFO employees and volunteers spent the day cleaning up the bayou in an effort to help the public lands.

Photo by Clay Moore

to a variety of speakers from civic organizations, other Federal Agencies and Industry as they addressed a variety of topics ranging from the importance of maintaining the health of the land by not littering, to geology of the area, and related oil development to the importance of maintaining and protecting wetland areas.

Clean Up on Big Piney River



Photo by Vince Vogt

Eastern States Rolla Division of Solid Minerals Office employees and volunteers in Missouri spent NPLD floating down the Big Piney River in the Mark Twain National Forest to help clean up and enjoy the day. The group collected a variety of trash from the river, then enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Mill Creek picnic area.



Photo by Faye Winters

Ashley Browne of Troop #069, Palm Glades Girls Scout Council, helps to plant mangrove seedlings at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Wetland Area NPLD event.



Award-winning Hatfield-McCoy Trail Opens to the Public

By Andrea Nygren, Recreation Specialist, Eastern States

In mid-October, several BLM Eastern States employees joined with partners to celebrate the opening of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail in southern West Virginia. BLM has provided technical assistance and training in recreational off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail design and management for several years leading up the Grand Opening.

On October 9, the first 300 miles of the trail were opened to the public. Access to the trails is by permit. Unique to BLM, all of the trails are located on private land where landowners have cooperated with the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority to provide access.

The recent dedication of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail marks a major milestone in the project that began with BLM providing input to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility study in 1995. That study predicted numerous economic development benefits from a regional recreational OHV trail system. The 300-mile start up trail is expected to generate up to \$50 million and 1,572 new jobs. The proposed 2,000-mile trail system, extending from West Virginia into Kentucky and Virginia, is expected to create additional jobs and economic benefits. Invitational rides in October 1999 demonstrated the appeal of recreational OHV riding.

Trails were mapped and marked by BLM, Marshall University students, and volunteers using Geographic Information Systems technology. BLM's role in training students and recent graduates of Marshall



Photo by Jim Keeler

Eastern States Associate State Director Mike Nedd speaks to the audience at the Grand Opening celebration of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail in West Virginia.

University in Huntington, West Virginia is an important component of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail Project and the partnership that worked together to design and manage the trail. BLM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Huntington District), Marshall University, the American Motorcyclist Association, and the Hatfield-McCoy Recreational Development Coalition (predecessor to the Authority) joined together in signing a memorandum of agreement in 1997.

In 1999, the Hatfield-McCoy Trail won an award from Members of Congress and the recreation community for long-distance trail design and was selected as a Millennium Trail by the U.S. Department of Transportation and former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Tutoring Program Promotes BLM and Career Opportunities

By Lars Johnson, Geologist, Jackson Field Office

The BLM's Jackson Field Office has had a Cooperative Agreement with Jackson State University (JSU), a Historically Black College and University, for several years and has a 5-year Cooperative Agreement-Assistance Agreement with Piney Woods School (PWS). Both agreements are designed to assist in the educational programs at the schools and to promote BLM and its career opportunities with minorities.

The Tutoring Program uses JSU education majors in their junior and senior years of college. This program provides students with teaching experience during the student mandatory evening "study hall" sessions at PWS. The program enables PWS students to receive individual instruction in various academic subjects.

Signing of H.R. 4811 Prompts Transfer of Mineral Rights

By Sid Vogelpohl, Assistant Field Manager, Jackson Field Office

Representatives from BLM, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Office of Surface mining met in Chattanooga, Tennessee in November to discuss the transfer of 40,000 acres of coal estate from the TVA within the Daniel Boone National Forest of eastern Kentucky to the U.S. Forest Service. Attendees for BLM were John Lewis, Mining Engineer, from BLM's Jackson, Mississippi Field Office and Dave Stewart, Solid Mineral Resources Program Lead, from Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia.

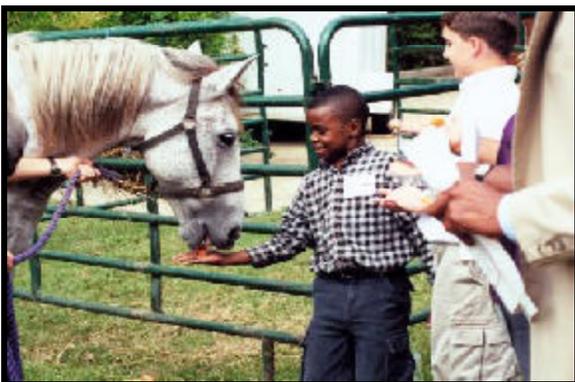
This transfer was authorized by the signing of H.R. 4811 by the President on November 6, 2000. With the transfer, TVA will be granted a \$4 million credit by the Minerals Management Service that will be available for TVA or other entities accepted by TVA to acquire Federal mineral leases elsewhere. The statute provided specific

milestones that were accomplished within 120 days of the signing of the statute, including transfer of records and environmental data to the USFS.

This new statute also allowed significant consolidation of surface and mineral ownership for the Daniel Boone, thereby providing the USFS with more control over coal development through land use planning and environmental reviews within their jurisdictional boundaries. These newly acquired coal rights include several existing coal leases that can be categorized as "private acquired leases" which will remain subject to the terms of the private agreement. Private acquired leases are non-Federal leases that are not subject to 43 CFR. The private acquired coal leases would, however, be subject to field review by John Lewis. Any new coal leases would be issued by the BLM, after USFS consent, under 43 CFR 3400.

Students Return to B.I.T.E. Day at JFO

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



B.I.T.E students meet and feed a real wild horse as part of their experience at the JFO.

To increase community awareness of BLM and to expose students to natural resource-related careers, the Jackson Field Office (JFO) once again participated in Business/ Industry Teacher Exchange (B.I.T.E.) Day. B.I.T.E.

Day is a student-centered approach to career education which gives students "first-hand" experience in exploring career opportunities that may await them in the near future. During the day, students along with some of their teachers, counselors, and administrators, explored business and industry categories such as Government and Law Enforcement, Media, Education, and Healthcare. Students from local Jackson, Mississippi metro-area public, private, and parochial schools interacted with speakers, toured industries and businesses, and engaged in panel discussions.

On October 5, approximately 30 local students visited JFO. Associate State Director Mike Nedd gave an inspirational welcoming speech for the students prior to touring the office and getting to visit "stations." At each station, students were able to learn about Geographic Information Systems, the Internet, Solid Minerals, wild horses and burros, and the Fire program.



Eastern States Celebrates October and November Heritage Months

Hispanic Heritage Month

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States

Hispanic Heritage Month in October offered Eastern States another opportunity to celebrate and embrace the Hispanic culture.

Hispanic Employment Program Manager, Heddy Lozano, opened the celebration introducing Eastern States Director Gayle F. Gordon, Associate State Director Mike Nedd, and Equal Employment Program Manager, Lynda Nix.

As noted in President Clinton’s Proclamation of September 14, 2000, “Hispanics have been an important part of the history and colonization, and today Hispanic Americans are the youngest and fastest-growing minority community in our Nation.”

Special guest speaker, Ivonne Cuñarro Deputy Director for Communications, Office of Personnel Management, gave a tremendous speech about her own heritage, having been born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and growing up in the



Photo by Cathy Rodine

The Mariachi Azteca Band plays several pieces for the group at the October Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the State Office.

United States, where she has worked hard to reach her current position.

An added feature of the program was the live entertainment by the Mariachi Azteca Band who played Mexican music .

Attendees then enjoyed delicious Hispanic food and refreshments and each other’s company.

National Native American Heritage Month

By Tammy Ball, Accounting Technician, Eastern States



Indian mother and child.

Native American weaver.



November is often a time of year when most people think of Thanksgiving and the beginning of the holiday season. But did you know that November is also National American Indian Heritage Month? Here at Eastern States, our Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records Division hosted a gathering to celebrate this national event.

Continued on page 9



Wonderful Outdoor World Holds First Awards and Recognition Ceremony

By Marcella Davis, Environmental Education Program Assistant, Eastern States

On November 16, BLM's Eastern States ended the Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) camping season for FY 2000 with the First Annual DC WOW Partners Awards and Recognition Ceremony.

WOW is a unique program that introduces urban youth, ages 8 to 12, to outdoor recreation and environmental education during an overnight camping experience.

Charles Bush, Executive Director, DC WOW and Marcella Davis, Program Assistant, DC WOW served as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Certificates of appreciation were presented to volunteers whose dedication and support throughout the year were invaluable. Plaques of "Special Thanks" were presented to sponsors and partners, including The Walt Disney Company, Coleman Company, American Recreation Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Giant Food, Inc., Denise Meridith (one of the founders of the WOW program and BLM's Arizona State Director), Anacostia National Park, DC Parks and Recreation, DC Environmental Health Administration, Student Conservation Service, National Capital Region-National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.



Photo by Cathy Rodine

Marcella Davis (left), Joi Newberne, WOW youth camper, Kris McNamera, The Walt Disney Company (major contributor and WOW sponsor), and Charles Bush pose for a photo at the ceremony.

Plaques of "Special Thanks" were also presented to The Greater Washington Urban League, Student Conservation Service, and the Town of District Heights, Maryland, and DC WOW partners who hosted camp-outs this year.

And last, but certainly not least, a "Special Thank You" plaque was presented to the BLM and Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon for continuing support of the program.

America's Outdoors Reaches Out to Wisconsin Teachers

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office



Photo by James Engstrom

Martha Malik, BLM Public Affairs Specialist, talks to teachers about the different kinds of environmental education resource materials on exhibit at the booth during the convention.

America's Outdoors staff had an opportunity to reach nearly 2,000 teachers at the National Science Teachers Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in mid-October.

America's Outdoors staff displayed an exhibit showcasing a variety of environmental education resource materials, lesson plans for teachers, earth science teachers' guides, teacher tool kits on watersheds, wetlands and weeds, as well as educational trunks containing teachers' lesson guides, videos, posters, hand puppets, and books about the wolf and songbird.

Continued on page 12



Heritage Months...continued from page 7

The festivities began with opening remarks from State Director Gayle Gordon and Acting Deputy State Director for Cadastral Survey Joe Beaudin. Guest speaker John Nicholas, who currently works for the DOI's Bureau of Indian Affairs as Director of the Office for Equal Opportunity Program, gave a remarkable speech which allowed each person in the audience a brief chance to take a short journey down American Indian Heritage History. His speech, "Many Nations, Many Cultures — Embracing Diversity, Speaking the Truth," moved many in the audience, reflecting on colonial times, giving detailed descriptions of what it was like for the American Indians to have a new race live on the land with them, and how they had to accept and learn to adapt to this new culture — a new way of life. Mr. Nicholas knows these stories all too well, for he is a Munsee Indian of the Thames River Band of the Delaware Indians of Ontario, Canada.

After some reflection on Mr. Nicholas' speech, awards were presented by both State Director Gordon and Associate State Director Mike Nedd. Two beautiful flower arrangement door prizes, created by Barbara Colledge, were awarded to lucky participants Pam Mozina and Jackie Choudhury, followed by closing remarks by Associate State Director Nedd.

To end the celebration, employees were treated to a buffet-style feast prepared by BLM employees who



Photo by Joy Pasquariello

Special guest speaker John Nicholas, DOI, Bureau of Indian Affairs pauses for a few minutes with State Director Gayle Gordon and Associate State Director Mike Nedd before the buffet-style feast at the Native American Heritage Celebration.

volunteered their time and efforts to prepare authentic American Indian dishes as well as many traditional Thanksgiving dishes. From the turkey to the Chippawa Chili, good food was plenty, and no one walked away hungry.

Please take a moment to embrace the knowledge in the ancient Indian Proverb: "Treat the earth well — it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

MFO's Realty Program Goes Online

By Paul Salvatore, Realty Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

In early September, the MFO realty program went online with a newly designed, user friendly, customer-oriented, and expanded Web site. Being a recently-transplanted Alaskan realty specialist, I was eager to take on the task, with a goal of providing more useful information to the public about the realty and lands program.

The uniqueness of the realty program is described on the home page, where the visitor is introduced to the more common types of actions that we deal with such as Color-of-Title, Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) leases, and patents. There are answers to

commonly asked questions regarding land sales, procedures for filing a claim under the Color-of-Title authority, and how to apply for a right-of-way across public lands. We also have an electronic version of the BLM "How To" pamphlet on submitting an application for an R&PP lease or patent. In addition, the public can download applications for these various realty actions, making it easier to access necessary applications along with the supporting documentation, and allowing people to be better prepared for submitting a request.

Continued on page 12



Emergency Gathers—A Sight to See!

Story and photo by Lisa Flanagan, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

As part of wild horse and burro cross-training efforts, both Shayne Banks (Public Affairs Specialist in the Jackson Field Office) and myself were asked to assist in Utah with media coverage during emergency gathers of wild horses during the summer. With an ecological crisis looming and starvation and dehydration a reality, the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Staff in Utah was faced with the decision to initiate emergency gathers throughout the State.

A dry spring, a hotter-than-normal summer, and an infestation of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets combined, depleted the vegetation necessary for wild horse survival. By July, Utah's wild horses were already beginning to eat into their winter feed, due to the lack of forage and adequate water. Most of the vegetation in the southern part of Utah is perennial grasses, such as Indian Ricegrass, Bluebunch, Wheatgrass, Squirrel Tail and Western Wheatgrass, with northern Utah being dominated by annual grasses such as Cheatgrass. What the crickets didn't destroy, summer wildfires scorched, burning approximately 45,000 acres in the Cedar Mountain range alone.

The previous winter had offered very little snow pack, and water levels were inadequate to recharge the

springs and aquifers needed for the normal 6 to 8 inches of vegetation to grow to feed the horses. With vegetation growth only at 1/2 inch, the horses consumed their supply of feed and water resources. Exhausted horses and their foals were seen traveling as far as 8 to 15 miles between vegetation and water sources.

Having never been to Utah, I was thrilled at the opportunity to help with the work to be done and the experience to see the Western gathers and operations "first-hand." I now fully understand that these roundups are a noble and necessary practice of preserving a piece of America's heritage, and that they are also a proactive effort to save the horses and our public rangelands.



Wild horses are gathered in Utah.

One thing for sure, there's nothing to get your blood going like the sight of 42 wild horses running towards you while waiting in the jute (wings of a capture trap) to follow them in and close the gates, or the feeling of seeing them roaming free, on our public lands.

Roadside Cleanup Completed in Record Time

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

On a beautiful, crisp fall day, 19 Eastern States' employees and friends grabbed gloves, vests, and big orange trash bags to hit their local streets for the Adopt-A-Highway Clean up. Twenty bags of trash were collected in record time, covering 1.7 miles. First time Adopt-A-Highway volunteer, Tony Mayfield said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the clean up; it was an experience I will never forget. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for my glove — it's missing in action."

Every year Adopt-A-Highway volunteers collect about 300,000 bags of trash from one-fourth of Virginia's roads. That projects to over a million bags, or a quarter-million cubic yards of trash — enough to fill a typical NFL stadium to the brim.



Pictured are some of the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who helped clean up. Volunteers were presented with coffee mugs and certificates during a recent monthly All Employees Meeting.



ES Happenings

The General Land Office Records Web site contractor, SAIC, was recently named to *InformationWeek's* Innovation 100 List. *InformationWeek* helps people who buy, build and manage information technology in business. SAIC was cited for their work "Helping the Bureau of Land Management put records online gives researchers and genealogists, including the homebound, a much wider access," said *InformationWeek*.

ES Director Gayle Gordon signed a memorandum of understanding on October 3, with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Charles County, Maryland, which establishes a joint agreement for future management of lands to be acquired near Douglas Point, Maryland.

The State Office held its Disability Awareness Program, led by John Marcel, Jr., Disability Awareness Program Coordinator. Keynote Speaker Jennifer Cooper, who graduated from Model Secondary School for the Deaf and holds a B.A. degree in Graphic Design from Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., talked about her inspiring story of growing up with her deafness disability. She currently serves as a Graphics/Technical Information Specialist at Booz-Allen and Hamilton, Inc., in Arlington, Virginia.

In September, Eastern States held "Mustang and Burro Savvy Day," at the Delaware State Fairgrounds, in Harrington, Delaware. The public enjoyed an educational seminar, attended show classes for freeze-branded mustangs and burros or certified descendants, and watched a parade of adopted mustangs and burros.

In October, MFO joined other southeastern Wisconsin Federal employees in a walk-a-thon to kick-off the 2000 Combined Federal Campaign.

America's Outdoors held its first annual "Volunteers Recognition Day" in November. Field Office Manager Jim Dryden presented those who helped out at events, such as the Milwaukee Sports Show, NPLD, environmental education booths, and registration tables, with certificates of appreciation for their efforts.

Late November, BLM Eastern States Cadastral Surveyors Corky Rodine and Jerry Wahl and retired BLMer Lane J. Bouman presented a 2-day seminar on

the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in Mandan, North Dakota, at the request of the North Dakota Society of Professional Land Surveyors. Rodine and Bouman concentrated on the history, laws, administration, equipment and procedures of early surveyors while Wahl discussed the geodetic aspects of the PLSS.

BLM Eastern States employees Jim Gegen, Gina English, and Linda Brooks staffed a booth, exhibiting the Bureau's General Land Office Records Web site at the DOI's IT Conference, "E Everything" in Denver, Colorado.

A Competitive Oil & Gas Sale was held at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia, on December 14. Sixty parcels of Federal land were offered in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Thirty-eight parcels were sold, generating revenue totaling over \$270,068 from bonus bids, filing fees, and rental. The highest per acre bid of the auction was in Arkansas: the highest bonus bid was \$130 per acre for 180 acres, totaling over \$23,745.

For the Holiday Season, State Office employees shared with those less fortunate by donating gifts for a "Share Tree" for the United Community Ministries and collecting canned goods for ACTS (Action in the Community through Service) in Prince William County, Virginia.

State Office and U.S. Customs employees gave the "gift of life" at two Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross blood drives. Sixty-six whole units of blood were collected in January 2001, and 67 whole units of blood were collected in October 2000. Special thanks goes to Kate Marks and Gina English for organizing the drives!

In January 2001, BLM kicked off another Wild Horse and Burro Internet Adoption. Applications were accepted from January 10-24, and bidding took place between January 17-31. Thirty-nine gentled animals, gathered from Nevada, Wyoming (trained at the Wyoming Honor Farm), and halter-trained burros from Colorado, were offered for adoption. Thirty-six animals were adopted — one-half of those adopted to adopters in the East and one-half to adopters in the West. The high bid was \$825, and total bids were \$17,210, with the average bid at \$478.



Teachers...continued from page 8

The Milwaukee Urban Tree House (UTH) Site Coordinator was also available to talk to teachers about opportunities for getting involved with the local UTH environmental education programming. "Having the opportunity to exhibit along with the teachers at the convention gave us a better understanding of the kinds of resources teachers in Milwaukee are looking for to supplement their existing classroom curriculums," said Martha Malik.

Realty...continued from page 9

Another area of the Web site deals with one of our more unique programs, the transfer of lighthouse properties, including a "status report" on the parcels BLM is involved with, and information and photos on actual lighthouses. Additionally, users can check out the expanded pages for two lighthouses — Eagle Bluff in Wisconsin and Point Betsie in Michigan.

For Eagle Bluff, we showcase the current collaborative management between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Door County Historical Society. The DNR holds a lease from the U.S. Coast Guard and is working with the Historical Society, who has accurately restored and completely furnished the lighthouse with antiques of the period. The Society conducts guided tours of the lighthouse throughout the summer.

Check out the Realty Program Web site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/mfo/realty/>.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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



Employee Scene

(October 1, 2000, through December 31, 2000)

New Employees -- None.

Transfer -- Paulette Baldwin, Personnel Assistant, SO to NIH
Retiree -- Judy Patterson, Assistant Field Manager, Administration, MFO

{In early January, we were saddened by the loss of long-time BLM employee, Bernice Carroll, Applications Clerk in Dockets. She will be missed by her family, friends, and co-workers at ES.}

E-mail/Comment Card Briefs

GLO — (Web site at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>)

"I think your web page is fantastic. It provides genealogists with a wealth of information. Thank you. (Mike Bartholomew)"

"You have a wonderful site. I am so glad when I see groups doing this sort of thing for those of researching our ancestors, and other history buffs. I know it sounds silly, but it makes me feel like I'm not so far separated from my government. (Norma Thompson)"

WH&B — (Web site at <http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov>)

"I thought that the wranglers on horseback, taking the horses from the pen, was less stressful for the horses. It seems a lot more calming for the animals." (Gloria Purvis)

"I have just adopted my 5th & 6th mustangs, and I'm totally thrilled with not only with my new horses, but the success of the entire adoption (Knoxville, 9/23/00). The Jackson Staff was faced with a bigger than expected crowd and tons of paperwork, just as computers went down. But they rose to the occasion & handled everything in a professional manner. And by the end of the day were still answering adopter's questions with a smile. These guys are great!"