



Vantage

(an Eastern States publication combining program and employee information)

Eastern States Welcomes New State Director

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| SD's Message | 2 |
| JFO Employee Wins National Recognition | 3 |
| Let's Go to the Movies | 4 |
| BLM Hosts ELRC Conference in Virginia | 5 |
| NPLD in the East | 6 |
| First DC WOW Camp Out | 8 |
| Milwaukee's Urban Tree House Site is Dedicated | 9 |
| BITE Day Comes to Jackson | 9 |
| JFO Steps Up Compliance for the WH&B Program | 10 |
| Louisiana Tract Gets Cleaned Up | 10 |
| Custody of Human Remains Transfers to Peoria Tribe | 11 |
| Bonds Ensure Well Sites Can Be Reclaimed | 12 |
| Career Fair Recruits American-Indian Students | 12 |
| Rolla Office Celebrates 150th Anniversary of DOI | 13 |
| Jupiter Inlet Natural Area | 14 |
| Employee Scene | 14 |
| ES Happenings | 15 |
| On the Lighter Side | 16 |



Photo by Cathy Rodine

BLM's Acting Director Tom Fry (left) administers the oath of office to Gayle F. Gordon, becoming BLM's 7th Eastern States Director, as Rob Wesson, Gayle's husband, stands by her side. Gayle's son, Jamie Gillingham, was also present at the ceremony.

By Peggy Riek and Cathy Rodine, External Affairs Specialists, Eastern States

Gayle F. Gordon, joined BLM's Eastern States Office, in Springfield, Virginia, in mid-October as our 7th State Director. Since her arrival, Gayle has received a warm welcome from all the employees at the State Office and also in the field during her new travels.

On November 19, Associate State Director Gwen Mason opened an Installation Ceremony with a warm welcome to Gayle, her family, the audience, and special guests who were invited to join in the special day.

BLM's Acting Director Tom Fry briefly talked to the group and administered the oath of office to Gayle, who is taking the leadership role following W. Hord Tipton's reassignment as an Assistant Director in the Washington Office.

Gayle's new position provides her with the challenge and responsibility for BLM programs in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River, to ensure the wise use and management of our valuable public lands and resources.

Continued on page 3



Message from the State Director

In my brief time at Eastern States, I have seen a solid organization, ready to move into the Millennium with confidence. As we go forward in this new year, I want to set out our goals at Eastern States for 2000, which are to:

✓ **Continue raising profile of Eastern States**—Through a continued effort, we can increase our profile as an active partner in the 31 Eastern States that we cover. We are an important BLM representative to the two-thirds of Americans who live in the East, and we have opportunities to showcase many of BLM's programs. A good example is the proposed Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Demonstration Program here at Meadowood Farm in Virginia. Our aggressive outreach to Congress will continue, and I look to our Field Office Managers' continuing to work with the Governors and State and local elected officials.

✓ **Improve customer service**—Continuing to improve our customer service is an important priority—both with our external customers, and internally among our employees. We have recent customer service data in the Oil and Gas and WH&B Programs which we will evaluate and implement suggested improvements. We will continue to address concerns raised in the previous employee survey, and on selected recommendations that resulted from the Eastern States' organizational review, called the "Design for the Future."

✓ **Improve business practices**—Closely tied to improving customer service will be continuing to improve the way we do business, using customer service data, the innovation that our Eastern States' employees bring to their jobs each day, and advances in technology. Specifically, we will work on reducing costs in our WH&B Program and expanding Internet WH&B adoptions. Building on the success of Internet adoptions, we will explore using the Internet for other business, such as conducting an Oil and Gas Lease Sale on the Web in the coming year. If resources are available, the Cadastral Survey staff will develop bureauwide electronic standards with our Washington Office for managing cadastral records, including scanning, storage, and easier retrieval of survey records. I look to all of you for additional ideas.

✓ **Commitment to diversity**—We will continue our aggressive commitment to diversity in our offices. This will include expanding our participation in the Student Conservation Employment and DOI's Summer Intern Programs, and continuing our successful Hot Shot Fire Crew in Mississippi.

✓ **Expand partnerships and outreach**—Eastern States has partnerships in many of the 31 Eastern States, which we will continue to maintain and nurture. We will work closely to support the Eastern Lands and Resources Council, one of our successful past partnerships in the East. We will continue trying to establish a WH&B mustang troop in Maryland, based on the model of the highly successful one in Kentucky. Likewise, we will closely consider opportunities to expand environmental education partnerships and the use of volunteers in our programs. As in the past, volunteers will continue to be critically important partners.

The goals are ambitious, and the Eastern States' Management Team met in January to prioritize specific projects. I am encouraged by the "can-do" spirit I've encountered among the the employees I've met here at Eastern States. I look forward to entering the Millennium as your State Director.

New ES State Director...continued from page 1

Prior to this, Gayle held the position of Assistant Director for Information Resources Management, where she had responsibility for the Bureau's information technology, information systems, and information management. As a member of BLM's senior management team, she was involved with most of the programs and issues facing Eastern States.

Previously, Gayle held senior management positions for 6 years in Interior's Office of Information Resources Management. She also held information technology positions at the U.S. Geological Survey for 14 years.

Gayle holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Wisconsin, a Master of Science degree in Technology Management from the American University, and a Master and Doctoral degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Gayle is dedicated to quality customer service and looks forward to working with employees and partners of Eastern States. 🦋

JFO Employee Wins National Recognition for Environmental Education

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

For the 4th consecutive year the BLM has recognized outstanding BLM interpreters and educators at the National Association for Interpretation's (NAI's) annual workshop, held this past year in Syracuse, New York. Lars Johnson, Geologist, in BLM's Eastern States Jackson Field Office (JFO) received the top honor, BLM's "Excellence in Interpretation and Environmental Education Award." The award was presented by Deputy Director Nina Hatfield.

Top winner Johnson serves as a minerals management specialist and BLM's liaison with Piney Woods School, an internationally-known historically black boarding school for middle and high school students. Since 1994, and under Lars' leadership, the JFO has enjoyed a partnership with Piney Woods School. BLM's goals are to develop programs and curriculums that encourage minority students to pursue careers in science and natural resources. Lars' many accomplishments include spearheading the JFO Environmental Education Camp, a widely acclaimed program now in its 6th year. At the Camp, students are exposed to a broad variety of ecosystems and experts. This year, students focused on watersheds and traveled across



BLM's Deputy Director Nina Hatfield presents Eastern States Geologist Lars Johnson the "Excellence in Interpretation and Environmental Education Award" at the National Association for Interpretation's annual workshop, held in Syracuse, New York.

Mississippi to get the "hands-on" learning experiences that cement learning.

Lars has also developed programs to engage students in the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology to study urban forestry. He leads a geology club that meets weekly, and organized a forestry and GIS summer camp with an International Paper as a partner. Lars set up a

Continued on page 4

National Recognition...continued from page 3

tutoring program for Piney Woods School pupils using Jackson State University education majors as tutors and funding from Historic Black Colleges and Universities.

BLM's "Excellence in Interpretation and Environmental Education" Awards were presented at an October 17, 1999, ceremony in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service's "Giffort Pinchot Award,"

National Park Service's "Freeman Tilden Award," the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's "Hiram M. Chittenden Award," and NAI's "Master Interpreter" Awards. The awards recognize Federal employees who have provided exemplary service and enhanced public appreciation of the natural treasures on our public lands. 🇺🇸

Let's Go to the Movies

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

Sixty 7th and 8th graders from Piney Woods School and employees from BLM's Jackson Field Office (JFO) did just that—went to the movies. In early October, the school children participated in a live, interactive environmental education broadcast entitled, "Wild Things '99 — Watersheds: Rivers Run Through Them."

The broadcast, which was produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Prince William Network, was available nationwide via satellite downlink. The JFO employees approached a local United Artists Theater who, in turn, coordinated with United Artists Theater corporate headquarters in Denver and arranged to donate the use of one of their theaters for the project.

Of the hundreds of classrooms participating nationwide, the 7th and 8th graders from Piney Woods School were the only youngsters who viewed the broadcast on the "big screen." They were able to ask and answer questions about the program via fax and e-mail.



Wild Thing '99 participants pose for a group photo.

Attending the broadcast were Bart Jones, National Account Executive with United Artists Theater corporate headquarters of Denver, Colorado; Tom Boswell, Manager of United Artists Theater Flowood, Mississippi; Terri Jacobson, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jackson, Mississippi; Lars Johnson, Faye Winters, Bob Schoolar and Lisa Flanagan from the JFO and, of course, the Piney Woods students. 🇺🇸

Photo by Vince Vogt



Eastern States Director Gayle F. Gordon visited the MFO's Division of Solid Minerals in Rolla, Missouri in November and took a field trip to the Doe Run Company Lead/Zinc mining and milling operations in Viburnum, Missouri. The field trip consisted of an underground tour of the Brushy Creek Mine, and tours of surface facilities. Pictured are (left to right) Mining Engineer John Scheumbauer, Rolla Office, ES Director Gayle Gordon, Core Lab Supervisor Bob Powell, and Chief Mines Geologist Bob Dunn who toured Doe Run's drill core laboratory, where drill core from Doe Run's Missouri mines, and their projects in South Africa, Peru and other localities are analyzed and stored.

Eastern Lands and Resources Council Hosted By BLM in Virginia

By Terry Lewis, External Affairs Chief, Eastern States

The 1999 fall conference of the Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) was held in Springfield, Virginia, and hosted by BLM Eastern States. Representatives from 12 State governments participated in the 4-day conference to discuss topics ranging from urban sprawl to land office records, and a futurist predicting what could lie ahead and suggesting several impacts we all should expect on public lands and resources.

Guest speakers at the conference included BLM's Deputy Director Nina Hatfield; Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon; California Deputy State Director Carl Rountree; and Founder and Chairman of The Great Outdoor Conservancy Kenneth Oden.

The main topic of discussion was the need for a clear direction and mission for this key organization. As ELRC President Jim Lawler of Minnesota said, "This was a real nuts and bolts conference... to steer the course into the Year 2000 and beyond." Work groups tackled ways to attract and maintain participation by 100 percent of State, Federal and other land and resources managing and administrating entities to generate a commitment and lead to the success of this organization. The mission and vision statements were redrafted, marketing plans were developed to involve more members, a revised directory will be developed, and plans were made for conferences for the next 3 years.

While all work and no play makes for a dull conference after a hard day's work, there was dining on a Potomac Riverboat one evening, and many of the participants attended the Manassas Battlefield Tour to see the historical sites as well as the survey work completed by BLM-Eastern States. After the tour, there was an introduction to some of the many other important programs at Eastern States, and an in-depth look at the General Land Office records and automation project at the Eastern States Office.



Photo by Joy Pasquariello

BLM-ES Cadastral Surveyor Steve Douglas (left) discusses a point of interest on a survey plat during the ELRC tour of the Eastern States General Land Office (GLO) Records section, with (left to right) Stephen Hale, Mississippi Secretary of State's Office; Mike Fraysier and Ed Leary, Vermont Department of Forestry, Parks and Recreation; and Elinor Schwartz, advisor to the Western States Land Commissioners Association.

Many of the participants commented how important this meeting was—to rejuvenate this organization and do some serious planning for the future. Many of the tasks are scheduled for completion before the annual spring joint meeting with the Western States Land Commissioners in Washington, D.C.

ELRC, founded in 1983, provides a unique forum for sharing information and discussing land management issues, keeping officials up-to-date on new information and creating a link with other professionals in their areas of expertise. BLM Eastern States employees were instrumental in the founding of this important organization and were pleased to facilitate its rejuvenation during the fall 1999 conference. 🇺🇸

National Public Lands Day in the East

“Show-Me” State Sponsors a Clean-up Day

Story and photo by Vince Vogt, Assistant Field Manager, Division of Solid Minerals, Rolla Project Office

Thirty-three volunteers from the Missouri Stream Teams and University of Missouri-Rolla Band, as well as local citizens, turned out for a beautiful fall day in the “Show-Me” State of central Missouri to participate in the Big Piney Cleanup for Rolla’s National Public Land Day (NPLD) event. The event was sponsored by BLM’s Rolla Project Office in conjunction with the Mark Twain National Forest, Fort Leonard Wood, and the Missouri Stream Team Program.

The effort began in the morning at the Happy Hollow Picnic Area on Fort Leonard Wood, where volunteers signed in and received a work assignment and trash bags.

With chores explained, one group floated a 10-mile upstream section of the Big Piney River, which flows through the Mark Twain National Forest and Fort Leonard Wood, and another floated 10 miles downstream, in canoes provided by Fort Leonard Wood or rented from a local outfitter. Approximately 20 miles of the river was cleaned. Volunteers pulled about a dozen tires out of the river, along with a steel tank, a mattress, lawn chairs, 55-gallon drums, and a



Rolla High School students, Christian Volz (left) and Grey Sitton (right), carry the tire they pulled from the Big Piney River at the NPLD event in Missouri. Deborah Volz is pictured in the canoe in the background.

wide variety of other trash. A total of about 200 volunteer hours were contributed towards the effort.

After the work was done, the group arrived back at the picnic area for a picnic lunch, and a “thank you” from the BLM for the work that was done. Many volunteers expressed appreciation for the opportunity to help take care of the public lands, and stated “Are you doing this again next year? If so, count me in.” 🇺🇸

Volunteer Day at Pohick Regional Park in Virginia

By Joe Zilincar, External Affairs Assistant Chief, Eastern States

In Virginia, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary Pat Shea joined Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) Vice Chairman Dr. C. Barrie Cook and 110 other volunteers, including eight from BLM’s Eastern States Office and Washington Office Headquarters, for NPLD at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Major projects completed included fencing and reseeding a 10-acre disturbed site in the group campground area, stabilizing an eroding hillside, repairing and rerouting an existing trail, constructing



waterbars on two trails, and a variety of landscaping projects near the pool house.

National Public Lands Day began 6 years ago by the BLM and some corporate sponsors as a way to draw attention to volunteerism and the importance of maintaining and preserving public lands. Involved since the inception of NPLD, BLM’s Eastern States Office held its first Northern Virginia Pohick Bay Regional Park event in 1995. The

Continued on page 7

NPLD in Virginia...continued from page 4

Eastern States Office has had an ongoing partnership with the NVRPA for the past 7 years, when in 1991, the Regional Park Authority opened its Occoquan Regional Park facility for our annual Kids' Fishing Day.

REI again helped with advertising, expertise on trail projects, and a grant of \$500 for food through the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation. A local restaurant,

Pizza Deli, formerly Bozelli's Deli, again helped out with the lunches.

This was a very rewarding event that would not be possible without the support from NVRPA's Chairman Walter Mess, Executive Director David Hobson, Manager James Short, Assistant Manager Julie Kutruff of Pohick Bay Regional Park, and the hardworking BLM and NVRPA staffs. 🇺🇸

Jupiter NPLD Attracts Nearly 100 Volunteers

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

On September 25, 1999, the Jackson Field Office participated in the 4th annual National Public Lands Day. The nationwide event is a day when families and groups of all ages volunteer to "give something back" to America's millions of acres of public lands. The Jupiter Inlet Natural Area was chosen to participate as one of 170 sites across the country, and it was the only site selected in the State of Florida.

Nearly 100 local volunteers from the Jupiter High School's Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy and the Palm Glades Girl Scout Council braved the weather and came out for a morning of great fun and contributed over 250 hours of work. As soon as we stepped out from under the welcoming tent the rain began, and for the rest of the day there were welcomed clouds with drizzle to keep the hot Florida sun at bay. After the rain began, it really didn't matter how wet or dirty we got, which for some of the volunteers, was **VERY WET AND VERY DIRTY**. Overall, more than 7,600 mangrove seeds were potted, almost 300 young mangrove plants were salvaged in preparation for a wetlands construction project, a full pickup load of exotic plants, including rosemary pea and Australian pine were removed from the tract, and gopher tortoise burrows located on the tract were monitored.

The gopher tortoise monitoring crew learned how a Geographic Positioning System unit can be used to more quickly and accurately map tortoise burrows, and how a Sony Cam would be



Photo by Lisa Flanagan

Participants take a break from their environmental work duties on National Public Lands Day at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area in Jupiter, Florida to pose for a group photo.

used to determine if a burrow is active or to identify marked tortoise or commensal burrow occupants.

Once the bulk of the work was completed, juniors and seniors from the Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy met with visiting regional BLM management to discuss Federal career and internship options.

The Jupiter Inlet Natural Area is currently being managed by BLM and Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management. The tract contains significant cultural resources and 18 special status species, including a breeding population of scrub jays, gopher tortoises and two plant species listed as federally endangered. The Florida regional management efforts, and the tract is included on Palm Beach County's list of Environmentally Sensitive Lands. 🇺🇸

Eastern States Co-Host's First DC WOW Camp Out

By Marcella Davis, Environmental Education Program Specialist, Eastern States



The DC Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) partnership kicked off its first overnight Camp Out at Prince William Forest Park in Dumfries, Virginia, October 2-3, 1999. The “kick-off” ceremony was held at the DC Urban Tree House (DCUTH) in Anacostia Park, SE, Washington, D.C., where Program Advisor Charles Bush held a Counselors’ meeting with the trained counselors and delivered a safety briefing to everyone. Children then loaded onto buses and traveled to Prince William Forest Park.

The WOW Camp Out was hosted by the Greater Washington Urban League, managed by Ms. Hyder H. Houston. Charles Bush and Marcella Davis, Environmental Educators of the Eastern States Environmental Education Outreach Program, played major roles in coordinating the Camp Out. Other Federal, District, private and community partners helped sponsor and participated in the Camp Out.

Under the WOW umbrella, the Camp Out included 40-42 youth from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan urban area schools. They were separated into groups of six or seven and supervised by a trained WOW counselor and a volunteer. They were very excited about meeting and greeting “Blossom,” the DC WOW mascot. Youth who participated attended H. D. Cook and Gage-Eckington Elementary Schools, and Miner Elementary School, Eastern States’ adopted school.

On arriving at the Park, the children were treated to lunch and then proceeded to “pitch” their tents at the Turkey Run Tent Site. They were responsible for preparing all their own meals and for cleaning up afterwards. The day was filled with interesting and fun environmental activities. They visited the Park’s Nature Center, went on a trail hike and participated in “hands-on” activities such as the “Rain Stick Activity,” presented by Ms. Houston. Along with his many chores, Charles Bush assisted in teaching the children about “Pathways to Fishing.”



Ms. Kelly Van Horn (top left) and her students from H. D. Cook Elementary School pose with “Blossom,” DC’s WOW mascot before the Camp Out.

Marcella Davis performed her famous “Urban Leave No Trace” (LNT) activity and explained the need for everyone to properly dispose of their trash.

Ms. Johnice Graves-Bey, Ms. Houston’s assistant, reported that the youngsters from Gage-Eckington were very impressed and happy about the Camp Out since it was a first for many of them. She said they were quite enthusiastic about LNT.

The Greater Washington Urban League has a quarterly newsletter and radio program entitled, “On Track.” The program highlights topics of interest which are broadcast weekly in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. On October 8, 1999, “On Track” recorded a program on the Camp Out.

During the interview for this program, Charles shared with the audience how camping has become a leisure activity among urban families and the importance of teaching youngsters to appreciate our public lands and natural resources. Ms. Houston pointed out that education can be taught through environmental issues, and as a result of the Camp Out, the League now has a group name of Elementary, Environmental Education Explorers (“E⁴”). These youngsters are now known as “Stewards for the Environment.”

America's Outdoors Dedicates Lynden Hill as "Milwaukee's Urban Tree House Site"

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

Lynden Hill recently became the future site of Milwaukee's Urban Tree House (UTH) at a ground-breaking/tree-planting ceremony, held on September 25, as part of the 6th Annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD). The event was sponsored by America's Outdoors, a Federal partnership of the BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the National Park Service.



Photo by Sylvia Jordan

Volunteers help out to finish work on a flower bed planting at Lynden Hill on National Public Lands Day in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The ceremony was brought to the city of Milwaukee by the Lynden Hill partnership, a group of organizations and agencies united to develop a program of environmental education, recreation, and park space at Lynden Hill. The partnership consists of Farm City Link—a Neighborhood House Program; Midtown Neighborhood Association; the Grand Avenue Middle School; the Milwaukee High School of the Arts; Public Allies Neighborhood Organizers; the Julius and Rose

Pieper Boys and Girls Club; the Urban Space Foundation; America's Outdoors and the city of Milwaukee.

Guests at the celebration included Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist, principal speaker; Ruth Voltz, Deputy Regional Forester, USFS Eastern Region; Jim Dryden, Milwaukee Field Office Manager; Jeri Gabrielson, Representative of Senator Russ Feingold's Office; Milwaukee Alderman Willie Hines and Youth Neighborhood Organizers, Jeanette McGinnis and Malisa Sanchez and Elizabeth Coggs-Jones, County Supervisor.

Events of the day included a ceremonial tree planting, tree identification walk, plant bed installations, nature scavenger hunt, tree sapling planting, area clean-up, bulb plantings, face painting, nature activities for the kids, and food and entertainment for everyone.

The UTH is an environmental education program designed to develop responsible environmental stewardship ethics in our youth and to increase public awareness, appreciation and ownership of our natural resources. Based at Lynden Hill, Milwaukee's UTH will offer regularly scheduled natural resource-related events, programs and outings led by responsible volunteers from the community and the partner and sponsor organizations.

Lynden Hill will be a very special place to the people of Midtown—a place for family and children to gather together, to stage community events, and provide a means for kids to learn about nature and the environment through "hands-on" experience. 🐦

BITE Day Comes to Jackson

By Lisa Flanagan, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

In late September, the JFO hosted 23 students, three teachers, and two chaperones for the first Business and Industry Teacher Exchange (BITE) Day. BITE Day is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and helps students learn about career opportunities available in the Jackson, Mississippi area.

Students visited career stations for geographic information systems, minerals, wild horses and burros, and business practices—all staffed by BLMers. Five BLM program specialists then described their jobs and provided an overview of BLM career opportunities. 🐦

Jackson Steps Up Compliance for the WH&B Program

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

Anyone who has adopted a wild horse or burro, or is planning to adopt in the near future, needs to be prepared to have their facilities and animal(s) inspected sometime within the first year. The Jackson Field Office (JFO) has taken several steps to increase compliance inspections in the southeastern United States.

Over the last year, we have doubled our compliance staff, completed 1,099 physical inspections, and titled 1,471 animals. In fact, the number of horses/burros that have been inspected this year almost equal the total number (1,236) of animals adopted by the JFO.

We have been able to significantly increase our inspections because our compliance staff has spent an incredible amount of time on the road, traveling from state to state and facility to facility.

We have also entered into several partnerships with local humane societies and law enforcement groups. Most recently, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the South Carolina Humane Society (SCHS) of the Midlands H.S.P.C.A. This agreement provides authorization and establishes procedures for the South Carolina Humane Society of the Midlands H.S.P.C.A. to assist the BLM by responding swiftly to allegations of neglect or abuse of untitled wild horses or burros that reside in South Carolina. Additionally, the SCHS will assist in monitoring complaints, helping to relocate at-risk animals, capturing loose horses, and by inspecting questionable facilities. 🐾



Louisiana Tract Gets Cleaned Up

By Sid Voglepohl, Assistant Field Manager for Mineral Resources, Jackson Field Office

Over the years, a 160-acre public domain tract of land in Rapides Parish, Louisiana had become a local dumping group. But through special funding, the JFO was able to issue a contract for the removal of the trash. The contractor removed 20 dump truck-loads of appliances and general household trash with 10 loads being recycled. To help prevent dumping in the future, signs have been ordered to identify the tract as BLM-managed land and to enforce no dumping.

This tract is one of several tracts in the Louisiana Planning Assessment/Environmental Assessment (PA/EA), which is nearing completion. The closeness of the tract to the communities of Buckeye, Deville, and Alexandria may provide an opportunity to develop the tract for an outdoor recreation center. An education center is appealing due to ease of access and nearness of schools and communities.

The tract includes features that are conducive for outdoor education initiatives, such as the bayou, swamps, ponds, and oil and gas development. Opportunities are also available for education relating to wetland ecosystems, soils, geomorphology and mineral production. Additionally, the tract could support some family recreation activities, such as picnicking and boating.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Alexandria has stepped forward as a potential partner. With the completion of the PA/EA, activity planning may further develop the outdoor recreation center concept. The trash clean-up was an important first step in making the tract suitable for public use. 🐾

**SPOTLIGHT ON THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Custody of Human Remains Transfers to the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

By Sylvia Jordan, Natural Resource Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

While conducting archaeological investigations for the BLM, Southern Illinois University (SIU) archaeologists discovered a fragment of human bone in a rock-shelter in Jackson County, Illinois. The purpose of the cultural survey was to determine the extent of the cultural site and determine the site's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Upon discovery of the bone, the field crew stopped digging, left the bone in place, covered the pit, and notified the local U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Archaeologist Mary McCorvie, who was overseeing the project for BLM.

Initial discovery procedures under Illinois statutes were followed, and the Jackson County coroner visited the site to determine that the site was not a criminal case. Southern Illinois University Archaeologist Dr. Brian Butler notified us that the bone was at least 3,000 years old, with no modern affiliation other than being a Native American. Discovery of the human bone on Federal land made it an issue to be addressed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990. The NAGPRA establishes the rights of Indian tribes to claim ownership of certain cultural materials, including human remains, and requires Federal Agencies to consult with Native American groups to determine the treatment and disposition of the materials.

When human remains are discovered on public land, Department of Interior regulations require the Federal Agency to notify the tribe most likely to be culturally affiliated with the remains. Given the extreme age of the remains and the present state of knowledge, it was not possible to determine the tribal affiliation of the human remains. However, under NAGPRA, a tribe is eligible to claim the remains for an area the tribe aboriginally occupied. The Indian Claims map showed that the Kaskaskia, now part of the present-day Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, established a claim of occupancy in 1803.

Once the initial contact was made with the Peoria Tribe, coordination was maintained between the NAGPRA representative and Milwaukee Field

Office (MFO) Natural Resource Specialist Sylvia Jordan throughout the consultation process. Letters were exchanged between the Peoria Tribe and Field Manager Jim Dryden when necessary to provide information and address specific issues. Then on April 19, 1999, the Peoria Tribe submitted a resolution, claiming full ownership of the human remains.

According to BLM regulations, we cannot make a custody determination for the human remains before publishing a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the remains were excavated. And under NAGPRA, we must provide the opportunity for representatives of any other Indian Tribe to make a claim if it believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these remains. A notice was published, and no claims were submitted during the 30-day comment period. So, we notified the Peoria Tribe that we could transfer custody of the materials, and the NAGPRA representative requested that the human remains be taken to the Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center.

Milwaukee Field Office's Assistant Field Office Manager Chris Hanson, Realty Specialist Marcia Sieckman, and Natural Resource Specialist Sylvia Jordan took the human remains to the Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center, met with the tribal representative, signed a Transfer of Custody letter, and transferred custody to the Peoria Tribe on October 15, 1999. The letter affirms that the transfer of custody occurred, identifies the materials transferred, and acknowledges that neither the BLM nor any other Federal entity is responsible for the materials.

The MFO wishes to thank Eastern States Archaeologist Jan Townsend, BLM National Curator Stephanie Damadio, USFS Archaeologist Mary McCorvie, Peoria NAGPRA Representative Charla Reeves, numerous BLM and USFS specialists from various offices, archaeologists from SIU, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, and representatives of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma for their ongoing assistance and advice throughout the NAGPRA consultation process. 

Bonds Ensure Well Sites Can Be Reclaimed

By Bill Forbes, Land Law Examiner, Eastern States

During routine inspections of Federal oil and gas wells, BLM inspectors occasionally discover oil wells that are not in compliance with Federal regulations. In some cases, the operators have either gone bankrupt or have simply chosen not to comply with the regulations, which can include surface restoration and the plugging of wells. When this occurs, the responsibility falls on BLM to complete surface restoration and properly plug the wells.

Surface reclamation can be a costly proposition. However, BLM takes steps to ensure that reclamation can be completed if an operator defaults on the terms and conditions of their lease. Federal oil and gas bonding regulations require the operator to furnish a bond prior to starting any drilling activities. When an operator fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of their lease, that is, failure to pay royalties, failure to plug wells, or properly maintain equipment, BLM will collect on part or all of their bond.

The Jackson Field Office recently discovered abandoned Federal oil and gas well sites in the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi. One



Photo by John Reiss

Pictured is an abandoned Federal oil and gas well site in the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi.

abandoned well site had vegetation growing near the well pad and around a pump jack well, an indication that no production had occurred at this well site for several months. Oil and water had leaked from a rusted tank which could cause an environmental hazard.

A contract has been awarded and surface reclamation activities which are now underway. 🇺🇸

Career Fair Recruits American-Indian Students

By Carol Van Ryzin, Minerals Program Assistant, Milwaukee Field Office

In November, BLM's Milwaukee Field Office was invited by the BLM-Native American Office to help staff a career booth at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society's 21st Annual National Conference. The conference was held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, with approximately 2,000 people in attendance, including many private and governmental agencies.

The day went quickly, answering questions of the eager and curious visitors from as far away as Alaska. Teachers, students from 15 States, chaperones, and other booth staffers used the forum to exchange and gather information. Educators from



junior high school through college were represented, many of whom teach at Indian-sponsored schools and colleges. These teachers were searching for areas of interest to emphasize in their curriculums, and preparing well versed students with marketable skills was paramount to these educators. Everyone was encouraged to use the Internet to search for governmental information and educational sites to plan for future studies and nurture career interests.

Continued on page 13

Rolla Office Celebrates 150th Anniversary of DOI

*Story and photo by Vince Vogt, Assistant Field Manager,
Division of Solid Minerals, Rolla Project Office*

BLM's Eastern States Rolla, Missouri office helped sponsor an Open House weekend, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Department of the Interior. The Open House was held at the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Mid-Centimeter Mapping Center, also located in Rolla. U.S. Geological Survey Director Dr. Charles Groat officiated at the Opening Ceremony.

The public, including approximately 750 school children, were treated to tours of the Mapping Center, displays of USGS-Water Resources Division equipment, and Interior Department Agency exhibits for the Office of Surface Mining, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. BLM's Eastern States Rolla Office displayed information on BLM programs in the East, with an emphasis on our minerals management function in Missouri. 🐦



Students take time to visit booths set up at DOI's 150th Anniversary Celebration Open House weekend held at the U.S. Geological Survey's Mid-Centimeter Mapping Center in Rolla, Missouri.



Career Fair...continued from page 12

Because the booth represented BLM's Native American Office from New Mexico, many southwestern students stopped by to identify themselves and ask questions regarding possible opportunities near their reservations. "Internships" was a common topic, and most students were very interested and willing to be placed wherever opportunities were available. Students were encouraged to apply for the Student Career Experience Program which accepted applications through February 15, 2000, for nationwide opportunities ranging from administrative to social science positions. Of particular interest to the students were careers in mining, engineering, geographic information systems, realty, and environmental areas. 🐦

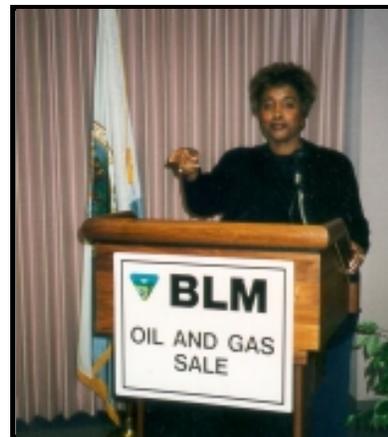


Photo by Cathy Rodine

Shirley Gilmore, Land Law Examiner at Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia conducts a Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale held in December 1999. Thirty-two parcels of Federal land in the States of Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Virginia and West Virginia were offered for sale. All parcels offered for sale were sold, which generated revenue totalling over \$537,105 from bonus bids, filing fees and rentals. The highest per acre bid of the auction was in Louisiana: the bonus bid was \$275 per acre for 200 acres, totalling \$55,375.

Jupiter Inlet Natural Area Wetland Project Completed

Story and photos by Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist, Jackson Field Office

The Jupiter Inlet Natural Area Wetland Construction Project was completed in December 1999, just in time for the new Millennium. This 2-year, \$120,000 project has resulted in a new 2-acre tidal wetland.

Two years ago, spoil piles stood choked with exotic Australian pine. Now within 1 month of opening the channel to the Indian River, the lagoon is crystal clear and has become a favorite haunt for osprey and shore birds, already fulfilling its purpose as a nursery for a myriad of fish from the adjacent Indian River.

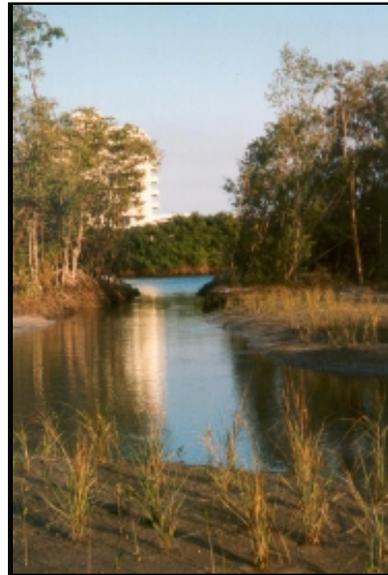


Newly planted spartina will soon fill in the intertidal area of the new wetland.

Initially proposed in the Jupiter Inlet Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP), the wetland project was given its major impetus from two grants totaling \$70,000, provided by the South Florida Water Management District. These grants were matched by \$50,000 in BLM funds through the Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Then Palm Beach County, our management partner, went to work!

Harvey Rudolph with Palm Beach County, a very capable construction firm, wrote a terrifically detailed contract and closely supervised the project. This added up to a great project. Most of the larger native plants within the construction area were successfully moved, including 20-foot tall strangler figs, state-protected leather ferns, and several large cabbage palms. The only plants not completely recovered were two large mangroves, and their moving was very experimental. Thousands of mangrove seedlings potted at last year's National Public Lands Day have been planted as part of two Eagle Scout projects, and the remainder of the plantings, \$27,000 in plant material, was completed by the contractor.

The opening to the Indian River has been signed and chained to close the area to motorized boats in compliance with the CRMP. Canoes and kayaks are welcome. The crowning glory may be one day to see manatee browsing here, near a very unique tract of public domain. 🇺🇸



The newly-created opening to the Indian River provides the tidal flush of water into the wetland.

Employee Scene

Comings & Goings

New Employees -- Donna Jones, Personnel Assistant, and Chavella Talbert, Administrative Support Assistant, ES, Human Resources Branch

Retiree -- Charles Everett Newnam, Special Agent-In-Charge, ES, Law Enforcement

Transfers -- None.



Congratulations to Shayne Banks, JFO Public Affairs Specialist, who now has a new addition to her family, a baby boy named Carson James, born on November 26, 1999.

ES Happenings

Shayne Banks and Bob Schoolar, from BLM's Jackson Field Office, were honored with an Honorable Mention plaque for "Excellence in Environmental Education" at the National Association for Interpretation's annual workshop, held in Syracuse, New York, for their work on the outstanding Wild Horse and Burro Interactive Exhibit at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. The exhibit contains murals depicting horses in the wild, adoptions, the Mustang Troop in Kentucky, adoption success stories, and an interactive touch screen. The touch screen has become so popular that it was converted to an interactive CD-ROM which will continue to educate many home computer users, as well as attracting thousands of users to learn more about BLM lands and the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

A Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale was held at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia, on September 23. Sixty-two parcels of Federal land were offered in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Nineteen parcels were sold the day of the sale, which generated revenue totaling over \$58,162 from bonus bids, filing fees, and rentals. The highest per acre bid of the auction was in Louisiana: the bonus bid was \$375 per acre for 42 acres, totalling \$15,750.

A recent Inspection and Enforcement (I&E) Oversight Review of the Milwaukee Field Office was conducted in eastern Ohio, and involved BLM inspectors from both Milwaukee and Marietta. The review covered field inspection procedures (witnessing oil sale and gas meter calibration activities) and documentation (reviewing inspection reports and proper enforcement and followups). An "excellent" rating was given for the review. Good job!

The Wild Horse & Burro Web site has been awarded the Petjam's Editor's Choice designation in recognition of its excellence and efforts in developing a site for the good of animals and humans alike. The criteria for selection was based on content, and the site has been added to the Pet Site Finder. The Petjam Web site (<http://www.Petjam.com>) is unlike any other pet community on the Internet. The Web site was developed by pet people for pet people who share ideas, concerns, and stories. It features information and news on pet health, care and behavior, plus much more.

Once again, Eastern States held its famous Hispanic Heritage Program in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, and as always, enjoyed music, dance, and delicious food.

Assistant Field Office Chief Chris Hansen and the Realty staff in the Milwaukee Field Office met with the Wisconsin Division of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss the DNR's proposal to convert a reverting railroad right-of-way area to a snowmobile/bike trail between Mellen and Hurley, Wisconsin. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the scope and magnitude of other such rights-of-way in the State that may also be reverting as Public Domain land to the BLM, how they fit into the State's trail system, and what the associated management issues are for both offices.

On November 10, State Office employees were provided an opportunity to become more aware of and encouraged to understand disabilities through the Disability Awareness Program. John Marcel, Personnel Assistant, hosted a program for the employees, who listened intently to Speaker Ms. Brenda Holmes, a professional Sign Language Interpreter. Ms. Holmes gave a very informative presentation on disability issues affecting people in our society.

State Office employees and families once again volunteered a few hours on a beautiful Saturday morning to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway pick-up in October. Odd items included old batteries and even a hood of a car. Since 1988, thousands of volunteers have been cleaning up Virginia and showing their community pride by participating in the Virginia Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The 6th Internet Wild Horse and Burro Adoption was held January 12, 2000, through February 2, 2000. This was a very special adoption offering well-known Kiger mustangs (Spanish blood), pintos, buckskins, and halter-trained horses. Also available were horses gathered from Nevada, where over 1,000,000 acres of land burned by wild fires this past summer. Photographs of the horses were again available on-line, and the public was able to adopt from an on-line photo gallery.

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The BLM's Eastern States office is responsible for the stewardship of public lands and resources in the 31 States east of, and bordering on, the Mississippi River. Our office administers 30,000 surface acres of public lands and more than 39 million acres of subsurface Federal mineral estate.

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/>

On the Lighter Side...

A Creed to Live By

Don't underestimate your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless.

Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you will live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been but also where you're going. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.

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The Eastern States employees wish
all of you a Happy New Year!!!



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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Rediscover and Tread Lightly on your Public Lands

