

ARRI 2011 Regional Award Presented to Virginia's Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company

OSM Appalachian Region Director Tom Shope along with Butch Lambert, Deputy Director of Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and Joe Pizarchik Director of the OSM, presented the ARRI 2011 Regional Excellence in Reforestation award to Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company during a luncheon at the ARRI Conference in Big Stone Gap Virginia. The award, presented on May 23, 2102, honored Clintwood Elkhorn for its outstanding work in reforestation on the Bearwallow surface mine.

The Bearwallow mine, located in Buchanan County, Virginia, encompasses 1055 acres. Over 350,000 commercially valuable hardwoods and shrub seedlings have been planted on the site in the last five years. In addition, Clintwood Elkhorn was the first operator in Virginia to submit a mine plan that fully utilized the Forestry Reclamation Approach. ARRI's goals were met on the Bearwallow mine through Clintwood Elkhorn's dedication in planting commercially valuable hardwoods, loose grading to increase survival and growth of planted trees, topsoil salvaging, and professional tree planting.

In his remarks, Mr. Shope praised Clintwood Elkhorn's reclamation efforts and congratulated the two runner ups to the regional award, Premier Elkhorn Mining Company in Kentucky and Triple H Coal Company LLC in Tennessee.

Mr. Shope also recognized the 2011 State Excellence in Reforestation Award winners including Premier Elkhorn Mining Company (KY), Friends of the Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation \ Columbiana County Parks District (OH), Triple H Coal LLC (TN), Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company - Cedar Branch Mine (VA), Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company – Bearwallow Mine (VA), Paynter Branch Mining Inc. (WV), and Eastern Arrow Corporation (WV). In recognizing the award winners, Mr. Shope stated, "Your efforts to support ARRI and incorporate the Forestry Reclamation Approach in your reclamation operations are greatly appreciated and will help reforest Appalachia."

Chris Stanley and Scott Blackburn accepted the award on behalf of Clintwood Elkhorn.



Butch Lambert, Deputy Director of Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (left), Joe Pizarchik Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (second from left), and Tom Shope OSM's Appalachian Regional Director (right) present the 2011 ARRI Regional Excellence in Reforestation Award to Chris Stanley(second from right and Scott Blackburn (center) representing Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company. Photo by Linda Keene.