

ARRI News Briefs for Autumn 2006

By Patrick Angel

Great interest was generated from an ARRI presentation made on September 13 in Branson, Missouri to an all-hands meeting of the Mid-Continent Region. The Forestry Reclamation Approach and the progress made by ARRI over the past 3 years were discussed.

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An ARRI representative made a presentation about the Forestry Reclamation Approach to agricultural students at the University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture on October 19, 2006. They discussed the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and job opportunities in the field of reclamation technology with State and Federal agencies and industry.

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An ARRI representative made a joint presentation with a representative of the Western Pennsylvania Botanic Garden (WPBG) to the Urban and Commercial Forestry Conference in State College, Pennsylvania on October 20, 2006. The presentation focused on the active partnership between ARRI and the WPBG. It showcased the effort to create a botanic garden out of an abandoned mine located near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania using the Forestry Reclamation Approach.

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A two day meeting was held on October 24 and 25, 2006 in Lexington, Kentucky for the purpose of exploring opportunities to develop Regional or National NTTP Reforestation Training courses and workshops. OSM representatives from headquarters, the Appalachian Region, and the Mid-Continent Region met with state representatives from Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana.

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ARRI representatives from OSM, the University of Kentucky, and West Virginia University conducted presentations and participated in a panel for the annual Conference of Government Mining Attorneys in Lexington, Kentucky on October 27, 2006.

Topics that the ARRI representatives discussed were the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, the Forestry Reclamation Approach, developments in

recent reforestation research, and recent OSM rule changes and proposed changes related to reforestation issues.

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On October 28, 2006, an ARRI representative made two presentations at the Annual Conference of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The first presentation explained the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and the Forestry Reclamation Approach, and the second presentation focused on the results of 10 years of reforestation research by the University of Kentucky at the Starfire Mining Complex in Perry County, Kentucky.

Other ARRI Academic Team members from VPI, WVU, OSU, PSU, UK, and UT also presented their surface mine reforestation research findings which will eventually serve as the technical foundation for ARRI's Forestry Reclamation Advisories.

The SAF has created this special session in their annual conference in an effort to focus specifically on surface mine reforestation and to accommodate ARRI and the reforestation research being generated by ARRI's Academic Team.

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On November 02, 2006, members of ARRI's Academic Team from the University of Kentucky conducted a tour of the Bent Mountain Research Complex in Pike County, Kentucky for OSM's Acting Director, the Lexington Field Office Director, and staff members. The tour focused on research designed to determine the hydrological characteristics and physicochemical properties of loose-graded brown and gray sandstone spoils and mixed sandstone/shale spoils and their influence on surface mine reforestation.

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Photo by Paul Yacovone

This bear was wondering around the mine site in Pennsylvania.

