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## Appalachian Reforestation Project Recognized in First Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship

(Washington, D.C., June 6, 2011) The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), a coalition of federal and local agencies, organizations, citizens, and companies dedicated to restoring forests on coal mined lands in the Eastern United States, was honored in the first Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award, which was announced by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on May 25, 2011.

The award is designed to promote efforts and partnerships in federal agencies that lead to better migratory bird conservation. This first award was presented to the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM), which coordinates the ARRI initiative with major contributions from a variety of groups including American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV), the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group (CWGT), the Golden-Winged Warbler Working Group, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Trust for Wildlife, and many other conservation and environmental groups and associations.

Created by OSM in 2004, ARRI focuses on restoring native hardwood forests on areas where surface coal mining

has occurred or is currently ongoing. These areas include the Appalachian breeding ranges of *(Migratory Bird continued on page 2)*



(Photo by George Jett)  
Golden-Winged Warbler

## Arbor Day Foundation Presents National Award to the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative

(May 10, 2011) – The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), spearheaded by the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, has claimed the prestigious 2011 Arbor Day Award, which is granted annually by the national Arbor Day Foundation.

ARRI, a partnership formed in 2004 to restore the beauty of the *(Arbor Day Foundation continued on page 3)*



(From Left) John Rosenow presents the 2011 Arbor Day Award to Paul Rothman and Leah MacSwords

## Migratory Bird

continued from page 1...

many species of neotropical migratory songbirds, notably the Cerulean Warbler, which depends on intact interior forests.

The Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds, led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and composed of other federal agencies with migratory bird responsibilities, selected the winner of the award. The award was presented to OSM by FWS Deputy Director Dan Ashe at the national celebration of International Migratory Bird Day in Washington, D.C.

Interior Secretary Salazar said, "This project is helping restore forest habitat that is vital for countless neotropical migratory birds and other wildlife while improving the quality of life for many communities in Appalachia. Moreover, this OSM initiative has fostered partnerships that will further the conservation of migratory birds for generations to come."

OSM Director Joseph Pizarchik said "ARRI's work clearly demonstrates how government agencies working cooperatively can create effective environmental protection programs that benefit everyone. More importantly, programs like ARRI also develop the talents of hard-working volunteers, many of whom have chosen careers in the environmental field."

ABC's Brian Smith, who is the AMJV coordinator said: "The accomplishments of this coalition are remarkable – we have planted over 70 million trees on about 103,000 acres of mined land that have or might have been reclaimed to non-native grasslands that is poor-quality habitat for the native birds of the region. We will be seeing dividends from this effort for many generations to come."

Smith also credited several key partners with key contributions, including: OSM's Patrick Angel and

Scott Eggerud as on-the-ground project developers/implementers, the ARRI Science Team for developing the necessary reforestation techniques, thousands of tree-planting volunteers, and Petra Wood (U.S. Geologic Survey Cooperative Research Unit at West Virginia University), Jeff Larkin (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), and Randy Dettmers (FWS), who are all members of the AMJV bird conservation partnership.

Following the implementation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), regulators focused on stabilizing the landforms created by mining in lieu of restoring diverse, native forests. Regulators wanted to solve problems such as severe erosion and sedimentation often seen on "pre-SMCRA" surface mines. As a result, excessive soil compaction became common on surface mines, and aggressive grasses and other non-native ground covers were generally planted. There are an estimated 750,000 – 1,000,000 acres that have been reclaimed to grasses and other undesirable vegetation (e.g., autumn olive), contributing to both forest fragmentation and the spread of non-native plants. The ARRI effort is targeting projects to remedy these issues, while also reducing erosion

and sedimentation.

Large blocks of core forest are critical to several priority bird species in the Appalachians. For example, the Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler rely on the large blocks of deciduous forests for breeding in the Appalachians. The ARRI and AMJV partners are working together to strategically target efforts and resources at sites that would most benefit these species, but that also could benefit high-priority shrubland birds (e.g., Golden-winged Warbler) as the young seedlings begin to grow.

For example, ARRI, U.S. Forest Service, PA Bureau of Forestry, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania recently completed a reforestation project on 209 acres of previously reclaimed mineland in the Sproul State Forest, the heart of the state's Golden-winged Warbler Focal Conservation Area. The Project was funded by the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station and was directed by Dr. Jeffery Larkin at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Larkin said, "The project will eventually result in a diverse mature forest within an already extensively forested landscape.

*(Migratory Bird continued on page 3)*



From left: Scott Eggerud (OSM), Tom Shope (OSM), Brian Smith (ABC), Joe Pizarchik (OSM), Jeff Larkin (IUP), Petra Wood (USGS), Patrick Angel (OSM), Dan Ashe (USFWS).



## Arbor Day Foundation continued from page 1...

Appalachian Mountains, received the "Forest Lands Leadership Award" for advancing sustainable forestry efforts on public forest land. Leaders in ARRI are planting trees in an area of the country known for its bountiful hardwoods and beautiful forests, but seriously impacted by mining coal.

This partnership includes the mining industry, state and federal regulatory authorities and forestry agencies in seven states, and many diverse citizen groups that are interested in restoring areas that have been deforested. With strong involvement and participation from the mining industry, the ARRI has reforested about 45,000 acres with more than 30 million trees since 2007.

The Arbor Day Awards annually honors innovative and extraordinary individuals and organizations that represent the highest standards of tree planting and conservation practices for work done internationally, nationally, statewide and locally. Awards recognize conservation efforts such as tree planting and care, Arbor Day celebrations, education initiatives, community projects that benefit the environment and volunteer engagement.

"The good work being done by our Arbor Day Award winners like the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative serves as great examples of how planting trees is making a posi-

tive impact on communities throughout the world," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "When we plant trees, engage our community to plant trees or give children opportunities to connect with nature, we are leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy."

Paul Rothman of DNR and state forester Leah MacSwords accepted the award on behalf of the partnership. DNR Commissioner Carl Campbell said, "I am extremely proud of Paul and Leah in their efforts to bring back Kentucky's forests. The reforestation of Kentucky surface mining operations is of primary importance and a long-term goal of DNR. Their involvement has made DNR a leader in the reforestation of previously mined lands since 1996."

"This is a tremendous honor for the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, and I commend them for their dedication to restoring trees to the mountains," said First Lady Jane Beshear. "Preserving forests is vital to our ecosystem and will sustain the beauty that is characteristic of the region."

Since 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has given Arbor Day Awards to honor America's foremost tree planters and conservationists.

## Migratory Bird continued from page 2...

In the short-term, however, it will become valuable young forest habitat for a variety of imperiled songbird species including the Golden-winged Warbler".

In addition to the reforestation efforts, the Presidential Award also recognized a key South American Partner, Fundación ProAves, for their work with ARRI and CWTG in a pen-pal program that links high school students from the coal fields of the Appalachian Mountains with students in the Andean coffee-growing region of Colombia, South America. Using the conservation of shared migratory birds, such as the Cerulean Warbler, as the uniting principal, the project adds an international education dimension to the on-the-ground work restoring mine-lands. The program is trying to not only link Cerulean Warbler breeding and wintering grounds, but trying to educate kids in both areas about the linkage of this bird to two global products—coffee and coal, both of which have significant overlap with, and impacts on, Cerulean range.

ARRI is beginning to change the way mineland reclamation will be conducted into the future, and is one of many effective on-the-ground bird conservation efforts underway in the eastern U.S.

## Kopper Glo Fuel, Inc. Hosts Third Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Event in TN

By Carol Moore

Kopper Glo Fuel, Inc. hosted the Tennessee Arbor Day 2011 event at its Tackett Creek Surface Mine #2 in Claiborne County, on April 26.

Students at Clairfield and White Oak Elementary Schools established indoor American chestnut nurseries in their classrooms in early 2011 and then transplanted them at the planting event in April.

In addition to their potted American chestnut seedlings, students also planted bare-root seedlings of various species provided by Kopper Glo Fuel, Inc. The Tennessee Mining Association and Geo/Environmental Associates, Inc. provided (*Kopper Glo Fuel, Inc. continued on page 10*)



James Thacker, Kopper Glo Fuel Inc., instructs students on mine site safety.

## Virginia Celebrates Arbor Day by Putting Down Roots for the Future

By Jon Lawson, VA DMME Ecologist

Dickenson County, VA - A pleasant spring day was accompanied by the cheerful voices of over 130 sixth-grade students and the ringing of dibble bars opening up the earth to make room for hardwood tree seedlings on a reclaimed surface mine. Virginia's coalfields were the setting for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbor Day hosted by Alpha Natural Resources, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) and the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME). The event featured speakers from all aspects of mining and reclamation and a special introduction of backcrossed American chestnut seedlings provided by The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF).

The county extension agent, Brad Mullins, opened the festivities by welcoming the attendees to the Coalfield Agricultural and Education Center which was built in 2008 on the reclaimed surface mine. The center's facilities were utilized as a backdrop for the opening remarks and the lunch served after the trees were planted. "Dickenson and neighboring Wise County farmers are fortunate to have such facilities to use for livestock sales and community events, just like this Arbor Day," Mullins stated.

Representatives from Alpha Natural Resources and the regulatory agencies followed with supporting information for the students. Topics ranged from the history of mining and reclamation on the site to the future of coal mining and reclamation in the region. John Paul Jones of Alpha Natural Resources and Tom Shope from OSM stressed the importance of reforestation, the use of emerging science like those found in the Forestry Reclamation Approach (FRA), and the partnerships that are

forged from working together to implement the science.

Following the opening remarks, the State Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative awards were presented to the companies that best utilized the science and successes during the implementation of the FRA in 2010. Paramount Coal Company Virginia, LLC took home the Title V award for their work on the Trace Fork #3 Surface Mine and Mountaineer Enterprises accepted the Title IV award for promoting reforestation on the Jewell Ridge Gob Pile Reclamation Project in Buchanan County, Virginia.

Paramount Coal Company Virginia, LLC, a subsidiary of Alpha Natural Resources, had implemented the FRA and planted over 250,000 trees in the past three years on their Trace Fork Surface Mine. The reclamationist of the year award went to another Paramount employee, Arlie Collier, for his work on the Hawks Nest permit in Buchanan County.

The students then got involved when the Virginia Mining Association and Ruffed Grouse Association presented one talented student with a \$100 gift card for her work on the t-shirt design for the event. Following the award presentation, the students took to the recently ripped slope behind the Agricultural Center to plant over 1,200 hardwood and wildlife tree species. Oaks and persimmons accompanied a dozen of the 15/16<sup>th</sup> backcrossed American Chestnuts.

Over 1,000 students have participated in a total of seven Arbor Day events and planted 8,400 seedlings in Virginia's coalfields. The promotion of reforestation, particularly with native hardwood species, is at the heart of each celebration. The message is certainly taking hold, with many of the students relishing the opportunity to plant trees in hopes of making forests for future generations.



(From left) Jimmy Adkins of Paramount Coal Company Virginia, LLC accepts the Title V ARRI Award for their work at Trace Fork #3 surface mine from DMME Director, Butch Lambert.



(Right) Doug Mullins, Virginia DMLR Mapping Specialist, assisted these students in planting hardwood seedlings.



## Kentucky Department for Natural Resources Joins James River Coal and the Office of Surface Mining to Celebrate Arbor Day

By Linda Potter and Paul Rothman, Department for Natural Resources

On May 4, over 100 students and their teachers from R. W. Combs Elementary in Perry County, Kentucky, along with student members in the Future Farmers of America, the Boy Scouts and students from the Lexington Catholic Beta Club planted over 700 native hardwood seedlings and a large number of wetland plants to aid in reforestation and wetland creation on mined lands. The students also learned how to create forest-based pollinator habitat for honey bees and other insects.

The event was hosted by the James River Coal Company on its surface coal mining operation located near Vicco, Kentucky. Representatives from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (DNR), the Kentucky Division of Forestry and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement participated in the event. Representative Fitz Steele, Senator Brandon Smith, Donna McClure of Senator Mitch McConnell's Office and Perry County Judge/Executive Denny Ray Noble also attended.

The students planted tree species that included American chestnut, northern red oak, chestnut oak, red bud, gray dogwood, butternut hickory, yellow poplar and swamp white oak. With the exception of the American chestnut, the tree seedlings came from Kentucky Division of Forestry state nurseries. One mini-workshop led by Tom Biebighauser of the U.S. Forest Service focused on building forested wetlands on mine sites, and provided the students with a hands-on opportunity to plant wetland species around several seasonal wetlands constructed on the mine. Another mini-session was led by Dr. Tammy "Bee Lady" Horn of Eastern Kentucky University and focused on establishing bee habitats on mined lands by planting trees and plants that they prefer.

Coal Mining Our Future hosted a "Trees, Bees, Frogs and Me" poster contest for the Combs Elementary students. The top three entries received \$100, \$75 and \$50 in savings bonds. All participants were given a white pine seedling at the close of the event to take home and plant in their yard.

Reforestation of previously mined lands has been encouraged in Kentucky since DNR and the University of Kentucky began promoting and researching its viability in 1996. When mine sites are reclaimed as per DNR guidelines (Reclamation Advisory Memorandum (RAM) No. 124 or the Forestry Reclamation Approach), the resulting outcome can be greater tree growth and survival rates than one may find on some virgin forest soils. Planting native Appalachian hardwoods can provide landowners with a sustainable source of income, recreational opportunity, improved water quality, and offers habitat for forest animals.

*(Kentucky Department continued on page 9)*



(From left) Keith Shepard, consulting forester, looks on as Carl Campbell, Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Natural Resources presents Mike Munday, Patriot Coal Corporation, with the ARRI award.



(Foreground) Jama Bowling, OSM, assisted students while donning their bee suits.

## West Virginia Presents ARRI Award to Apogee Coal Company, LLC

By Brad Edwards, Office of Surface Mining

The 2010 ARRI Excellence in Reforestation Award was presented to the Apogee Coal Company, LLC for their reforestation efforts utilizing the Forestry Reclamation Approach on the 1134 acre Guyan Surface Mine, located in Logan County, West Virginia.

The award was presented to Kevin Baker, Manager of Engineering and Environmental Affairs, by Roger Calhoun, Charleston Field Office Director, OSM during Apogee's "Environmental Awareness Day".

The post mining land use is forestland.

The operator has planted nearly 400,000 trees on over 600 acres since 2006, with an 85% survival rate. Species planted included mixed commercial hardwoods such as white oak, red oak, chestnut oak, black oak, black cherry, green ash, sugar maple, tulip poplar, black walnut, and sycamore.

Wildlife research plots have also been established that consist of 19 different wildlife species to be studied over a two year period to determine which species do best on reclaimed mine soil. The growth medium is predominantly gray sandstone mixed with native topsoil. Loose grading is practiced and non-competitive ground cover is evident.



Kevin Baker, Apogee Coal Company, LLC, accepts the ARRI award from Roger Calhoun.

## Coal-Mac, Inc. Wins WV ARRI Award



Five-year old tree growth on valley fill face



From left: Kevin Quick, Jonathan Rorrer, both from WVDEP, Rick Buckley, OSM, Chris Sykes, Coal-Mac General Manager, and James Swiger, Coal-Mac Surface Mines Manager accept the ARRI award.

By Brad Edwards, Office of Surface Mining

The 2010 ARRI Excellence in Reforestation Award was presented to Coal-Mac, Inc. for their reforestation efforts utilizing the Forestry Reclamation Approach on the 562 acre Phoenix Surface Mine No. 2, located in Mingo County, West Virginia.

The award was presented to Coal-Mac General manager Chris Sykes, as part of the company's Earth Day celebration.

This site is a mountaintop removal operation with four valley fills utilizing the AOC-plus method for determining the backfill configurations. The post mining land use is forestland. The operator has planted more than 250,000 trees on over 400 acres since 2005. Tree survival and growth rates are excellent. Species planted included white oak, red oak, white ash, green ash, black locust, sycamore, and pitch-lob pine. The growth medium is predominantly gray sandstone mixed with native topsoil. Loose grading is practiced and non-competitive ground cover is evident.



By Dr. Patrick Angel, Office of Surface Mining

The Sierra Club and the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth filed a complaint against Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company in U.S. District Court in September 2008 for alleged violations of the Clean Water Act. The complaint involved the construction of two excess spoil fills without section 404 permit authorization by the Corp of Engineers (COE). The fills were in the watershed of the COE Fishtrap Reservoir (Pike County, Kentucky).

An initial settlement agreement and consent decree was reached in July 2009 that the Clintwood Elkhorn would pay \$250,000 for stream restoration in areas degraded by mining in the Fishtrap watershed. That amount is currently being held by the charitable organization, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Foundation (KFWF), and is awaiting disbursement.

Since 2009, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) has engaged diverse partners, including coal operators and environmental/conservation groups, to coordinate volunteer tree planting projects/events throughout Appalachia on previously-mined land reclaimed to unproductive grassland.

In 2011, the Sierra Club and Clintwood Elkhorn collaborated with ARRI to plant nearly 12,000 trees on about 30 acres of post-bond released mined land near the mining site subject to the consent decree.

The success of the ARRI project led to discussions about using the settlement money to conduct a reforestation project in the area instead of stream restoration. An ARRI project would leverage other funding sources and volunteer contributions with the settlement payment to result in a larger, more effective project for a greater benefit to the environment and the Fishtrap Reservoir.

As a result, the Sierra Club and Clintwood Elkhorn filed a joint motion in April 2011 to modify the consent decree to change the purpose of the defendant's settlement payment of \$244,500 from stream restoration to forest restoration using ARRI methodologies.

In May 2011, the Court received a letter from the United States Department of Justice, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, stating that the United States has no objection to the proposed amendment to consent decree.

ARRI received notification on June 2011 that \$244,500 is now available from KFWF for ARRI partners to conduct a tree planting project on post-bond released mine land owned by the COE in the Fishtrap watershed. The property is managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The reforestation project will be conducted in phases over a period of three years, about 70 acres per year, and will commence with site preparation, mowing, herbicide, ripping, in July and August, 2011.

## WV Students Celebrate Arbor Day and Learn About Mining and Reclamation

By Brad Edwards, OSM

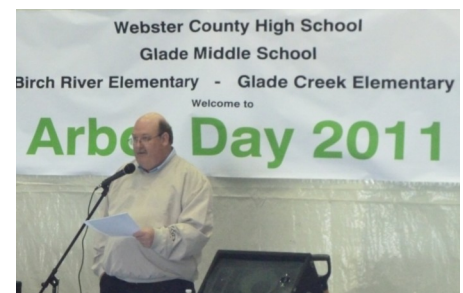
Students from Webster County High School, Glade Middle School, Birch River Elementary, and Glade Creek Elementary near Cowen, West Virginia celebrated Arbor Day on April 28, 2011 by planting 2000 red oak trees on land being reclaimed by the International Coal Group (ICG) at their Birch River operation.

The 65 students and their teachers were given presentations about the mining operation, the importance of coal, and how ICG has modified their reclamation plans in order to implement the Forestry Reclamation Approach.

The entire mining complex covers



WVDEP inspector Keith Evans works to help sixth grade students to plant oak seedlings.



Mike Duval, president ICG-Eastern, welcomed students to Arbor Day Event.

more than 5,000 acres.

The students then toured the active mining operation, and were impressed by the size of the equipment, prior to planting the seedlings on an area of loosely graded mine soil.

## Volunteers Continue Tree-Planting Effort on Former Mine Site

By William Estes of the Appalachian School of Law, Grundy, Virginia

Buchanan County, Va., April 2 – The Appalachian School of Law’s (ASL) Energy and Mineral Law Society (EMLS) hosted its second Arbor Day event on a reclaimed surface mine site that is now part of the Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority’s Southern Gap project.

Last year, ASL students spearheaded an effort that saw 1,000 hardwood tree seedlings planted on the site. This year’s group finished planting the same area. About 30 students either helped plant trees or plan the event. They were aided by 25 representatives from the Breaks District of the Sequoyah Council Boy Scouts of America as well as representatives from Alpha Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

This year’s volunteers planted about 900 hardwood trees, including green ash, grey dogwood, sugar maple, hazelnut, and black oak. The group also planted a dozen American chestnut backcrosses, specially bred seedlings that are blight-resistant. Blight claimed nearly all native American chestnuts more than 100 years ago. The American Chestnut Foundation, one of the event’s sponsoring organizations, has a research facility near Abingdon.

The foundation works with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, another sponsor, to use reclaimed surface mine sites to return the American chestnut to Appalachia.

Alpha Natural Resources of Abingdon was a major sponsor of this year’s event. Alpha is the same company that mined the site a few years ago in conjunction with the Southern Gap project.

Other sponsors included the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Terra Tech Engineering of Grundy, the Ruffed Grouse Society’s Appalachian Highlands Chapter, Buchanan County Industrial Development Authority,

and Marquis Development of Williamson, West Virginia.

“I would like to extend a special thanks to Alpha Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy,” said Will Estes, president of ASL’s EMLS chapter. “Without them, we simply would not be able to pull this event together. My favorite part of the event is being able to raise awareness of the American chestnut, its importance to this region’s heritage, and the work that the American Chestnut Foundation is doing to bring the American chestnut back. We are proud to take part in a project of such biological importance.”



The group of volunteers pose before they begin planting.

## Volunteers Make Tree Planting a Success

By Brad Edwards, Office of Surface Mining

Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> was a blustery day that found roughly 25 hardy volunteers planting approximately 3,300 trees on five acres of previously reclaimed surface mine land in Preston County, West Virginia. Andrew Miller, OSM/VISTA for Friends of the Cheat organized the event, by partnering with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, to bring the community out to improve the environment by planting native hardwood trees.

The goal was to enhance the site by planting hardwood trees, and to encourage natural succession of native plant and animal communities. Reforestation of this area will improve wildlife habitat, capture carbon, reduce surface  
(*Volunteers Make Tree Planting a Success continued on page 10*)



Right: Scott Eggerud, OSM, gives volunteers instruction on tree planting techniques.



## Director Visits Ohio Mine

By Mike Hiscar, Office of Surface Mining

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) Director, Joe Pizarchik, Appalachian Regional Director, Tom Shope, and Acting Pittsburgh Field Division Chief, Ben Owens, attended a meeting with state regulatory authorities in Cincinnati on June 1 and 2, 2011. On their return trip following that meeting, they met with the employees of OSM's Columbus Office to discuss issues and current events within OSM. They also visited several mining sites in Ohio.

During the site tours in Ohio a trip was made to the Oxford Mining, LLC's Jockey Hollow West Mine, in Harrison County. This site featured Oxford's successful using the forestry reclamation approach encouraged by OSM's Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

Oxford Mining officials and DMRM inspection and permitting representatives described the reclamation process used and the cooperation of the many partners that made the project a great success. The tree growth, survival, and diversity of species, including hardwoods like oaks and American chestnut, is unlike any other reclaimed mine site in Ohio.



(Third from left) Joe Pizarchik, OSM Director, viewed three -year-old tree plantings at the Jockey Hollow site. The tree in the fore ground is an American chestnut.

## Kentucky Department continued from page 5...

Wetlands construction and bee colony establishment are relatively new partnerships which complement the reforestation initiative by interspersing wetland areas and planting tree and ground cover types that bees prefer on these sites. Water fowl, dragonflies, frogs and salamanders now gravitate to the wetlands, providing another natural feature to the previously mined lands.

DNR Commissioner Carl Campbell presented the 2010 Kentucky ARRI Award to Heritage Coal Company, LLC for "Excellence in Reforestation" on their Ohio County surface mining operation.

According to Campbell, "The reforestation of Kentucky surface mining operations is of primary importance and a long-term goal of DNR. I am pleased with the on-going reforestation efforts of James River Coal Company and other progressive companies in the coal industry, the University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University and all other state and federal agencies who have partnered with us to achieve substantial progress with this goal."



(Center) Tom Biebighauser, U. S. Forest Service, taught students how to construct wetland areas and assisted them in planting techniques.

(Left) Jennifer Elam, Kentucky Division of Forestry, assisted students in planting native trees on the mine site.





## Kopper Glo Fuel, Inc. continued from page 3...



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement adult volunteers, Will DeBord, (foreground wearing green shirt), and Tim Rudder, (in background wearing green shirt) taught students how to plant bare root seedlings to reclaim the coal mining site at Kopper Glo Fuel Inc.'s mine site.

several hundred American chestnut bare-root seedlings for planting.

The rains held off and about 50 students from White Oak and Clairfield Schools joined volunteers from Kopper Glo Fuel, Inc., the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Tennessee Mining Association, Anderson County's The LEARN Center Alternative School, and Geo/Environmental Associates, Inc. planted several hundred trees into the ground.

Afterwards, the planters ate lunch at the site.

OSM volunteers included: Tom Haywood, Chris Miller, Will DeBord, Tim Rudder and Vic Davis.

## Volunteers Make Tree Planting a Success continued from page 8...

water runoff, and will ultimately produce valuable timber. This planting wasn't only about science and the environment - it was effective because of volunteers.

The site, a compacted and mostly grass covered hilltop overlooking the Cheat River, was ripped by Camp Dawson Natural Resources in October of 2010. ArborGen, a commercial tree nursery in Summersville, South Carolina, generously donated and delivered 3,300 hardwood tree seedlings. Ten blight resistant American chestnut seedlings were also planted by the volunteers.



Tree planting continues as snow begins to fall



Volunteers planted hardwood seedlings in ripped mine soil.



# Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative



The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative was started in 2004 with the goal of encouraging the planting of high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mine sites using the Forestry Reclamation Approach. The initiative is a coalition of the States of the Appalachian, the Office of Surface Mining and their partners in industry, environmental organizations, academia, local, State and Federal government agencies and local citizens who have come together to support this valuable initiative.

For more information on ARRI see our website at: <http://arri.osmre.gov/>

## GOALS OF ARRI

- Plant more high-value hardwood trees on reclaimed coal mined lands in Appalachia.
- Increase the survival rates and growth rates of planted trees.
- Expedite the establishment of forest habitat through natural succession

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