

ICG plays host to Glade Students on Arbor Day

Students help plant trees during celebration



The sixth graders got to see first hand just how large the trucks on a strip mine really are.

The first Arbor Day took place on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska. It was the brainchild of Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902), a Nebraska journalist and politician originally from Michigan. Throughout his long and productive career, Morton worked to improve agricultural techniques in his adopted state and throughout the United States when he served as President Grover Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture. But his most important legacy is Arbor Day.

International Coal Group's Birch River operation, more common to the local community as Evergreen Mining, played host to several guests last Friday, April 27, 2007, Arbor Day. Their biggest crowd, and some of their most important guest, were six graders from Glade Middle School. The six graders traveled on the mountain to be a part of ICG's Arbor Day celebration and helped plant trees on mined out and reclaimed surface areas.

First order of business for all guests, was a video on safety. The large group of visitors also watched a PowerPoint presentation on the Birch River operation. ICG officials pointed out in presentation that their mines produced enough coal yearly to power 750,000 homes for one year. They were also proud of their safety record. They had operated 306 days without a lost-time accident.

A great lunch was provided to everyone present. After lunch, they boarded a school bus and headed out on the job.

During their tour, the children planted Red Oak trees and got a look from a distance at the drag line and ICG's mining operation.

ICG is modifying all unreclaimed acreage at their Birch River Operation to FRA compliant forestland. The entire complex is about 5,000-6,000 acres.

Before the day was done, each student was given a sack pack filled with goodies, as well as trees to plant at home. Other guest also received t-shirts, tote bags, and a hat.

Without a doubt, the day was filled with fun and more importantly, a great educational experience.

ICG's Birch River operation is



Students got really busy after lunch and helped plant trees on the previously mined and reclaimed surface at ICG.



Students and guest were treated to a great lunch while visiting ICG.

