



# JOURNAL

*Serving the Needs of Land Professionals*

July 2000

## *2000-2002 Officers*

### *President:*

*Ed Leary, Vermont Agency of  
Natural Resources  
(802) 241-3683; fax (802) 244-1481  
eleary@fpr.anr.state.vt.us*

### *First Vice President:*

*Eric Schwaab, Maryland Department  
of Natural Resources  
(410) 260-8281; fax (410) 260-8279  
eschwaab@dnr.state.md.us*

### *Second Vice President:*

*Dan Wisniewski, Wisconsin Board of  
Commissioners of Public Lands  
(608) 266-8369; fax (608) 267-2787  
dan.wisniewski@bcpl.state.wi.us*

### *Third Vice President:*

*David Brickley, Virginia  
Department of Conservation and  
Recreation  
(804) 786-2123; fax (804) 786-6141  
dgbrickley@dcr.state.va.us*

### *Secretary:*

*Dave Dowling, Virginia Department  
of Conservation and Recreation  
(804) 786-2291; fax (804) 786-6141  
ddowling@dcr.state.va.us*

### *Treasurer:*

*Dave Bergman, Ohio Department of  
Natural Resources  
(614) 265-6410; fax (614) 267-4764  
dave.bergman@dnr.state.oh.us*

### *Member at Large:*

*Ed Meadows, Michigan Department  
of Natural Resources  
(517) 373-8243; fax (517) 335-3264  
meadowse@state.mi.us*

## Service to Member States is High Priority for ELRC Executive Committee

First of all, I would like to thank all of the voting members of ELRC for having the confidence in me to have me serve as your President for another 2-year term. For those of you who may not know, I was President of ELRC from 1992 to 1994.

Based upon decisions made at our business meeting conducted during the Joint ELRC/WSLCA Spring Conference in April, we have much we'd like to accomplish, and this can't be done without your help. With that thought in mind, I am soliciting your input and/or assistance with a number of activities. We still need to adopt a theme for the Joint Spring 2001 Meeting in Washington, DC. Any ideas that you may have would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to formally establish three committees: 1) web-site development; 2) marketing/recruiting nonparticipating states; and 3) membership support. Please call me if you would like more information

about what I am thinking or if you would like to serve on one or more of these committees, as I will be making assignments in the very near future.

We will continue to: 1) support ELRC member states by information sharing and other forms of assistance; 2) keep our mailing list current; 3) encourage new member states and organizations to participate in ELRC activities; 4) produce a newsletter at least twice each year; 5) publicly market and promote the organization; and 6) maintain close communication by conducting frequent telephone conference calls among the Executive Committee members.

I encourage you to contact me at any time if you have thoughts, concerns or ideas that you would like to discuss. Remember that ELRC is only as good as the level of participation of its members.

Ed Leary, President

# What's Happening in YOUR State?

## Virginia

When created in 1998, the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation was seen as a mechanism to reach some of the commonwealth's stewardship goals. It's now clear that this foundation will also help Virginia as part of its joint efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Since 1983, Virginia, along with Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program. This voluntary cooperative program has led efforts to restore the Bay and improve water quality throughout its watershed.

One of the major accomplishments of the program has been to clearly link actions on the land to their impacts on water quality. Over the last year program partners have been working to develop a new Chesapeake Bay Agreement to guide restoration efforts. This link is acknowledged in many of the commitments of the new agreement.

It is at the heart of a new commitment to strengthen land acquisition and preservation in each state with the goal of permanently preserving 20 percent of the land in the watershed by 2010. In Virginia, the Land Conservation Foundation and Fund will play a major role in meeting this goal.

The foundation awards grants to local governments, nonprofit organizations and other public bodies that would acquire land properties or conservation easements on properties in order to protect their natural resources. Priorities are assisting organizations committed to improving or protecting water quality and protecting environmentally sensitive lands.

While the conservation fund is a statewide program, with two-thirds of Virginia's landmass found in the Chesapeake Bay basin, the fund will have a tremendous impact on the watershed.

"This Virginia Land Conservation Fund will play a major role as Virginia works to honor the land preservation commitment in the new Bay Agreement," said Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, and ELRC Third Vice President, David G. Brickley. "This grant program is an excellent opportunity for local governments and organizations to preserve the historic character of their localities while protecting water quality." Brickley serves as executive secretary of the foundation.

In 1999, 12 grants totaling \$1.68 million were awarded. Eleven were in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; the 2000 Virginia General Assembly approved \$12.4 million to go to the fund over the

### *The ELRC*

*...fostering responsible public land management policies for tomorrow*

The ELRC is an organization comprised of highly trained public land professionals in the eastern United States which provides a collaborative and unique forum for enhancing land stewardship and conservation.

The ELRC fosters communication, strengthens professional development, and promotes sound policies and practices among those involved in the management and administration of public lands, records, and natural resources.



For more information, write:  
Ed Leary, Operations Director  
103 South Main Street, Bldg., 10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601  
e-mail: eleary@fpr.anr.state.vt.us  
or call Ed at (802) 241-3683

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next 2 years. An additional \$3.4 million was approved to match federal funds to acquire lands associated with four Civil War battlefields.

Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore recently announced an agreement with the USDA Farm Service Agency creating the Virginia Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. The \$91 million program will pay farmers rental payments to convert marginal farmland into riparian buffers or grass filter strips over a 10-15 year period. The goal is to enroll 35,000 acres. As part of its CREP program, Virginia is committing \$3.75 million to acquire 8,000 acres of permanent conservation easements. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Ducks Unlimited have also added \$1.5 million to restore wetlands.

The Governor's second annual conference on greenways and trails will be held in Virginia Beach Oct. 1 – 3, 2000. Dubbed the Governor's Conference on Greenways and Blueways, a new focus will be on developing water trails, one of the fastest growing concepts in outdoor recreation. This year for the first time, Virginia has awarded several grants from its recreational trails grant program to localities developing water trails. In addition, Virginia is anticipating several water trail projects in the state being awarded grants from the National Park Service's Gateways Program. Formal announcement of these grants is expected in late June.

Virginia is slated to receive \$848,926 from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Half these monies will go to acquiring in-holdings or rounding out sensitive boundaries in Virginia State Parks. The other half is distributed to localities for parks and recreational projects. The state has already received more than \$3 million in local requests.

submitted by David Brickley,  
Department of Conservation and Recreation

## Wisconsin

The Wisconsin legislature recently finished its 2-year session and headed home to campaign. One of the biggest issues the lawmakers resolved before they left town was a bill to help the Green Bay Packers embark on a major renovation of Lambeau Field. The Packers had requested public assistance to cover about half the costs of a planned \$330 million project.

The Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands "invests" its trust fund assets in loans to local governments and school districts for various capital projects. Our current portfolio of outstanding loans exceeds \$200 million. All earnings from these loans and other trust fund investments are distributed to public school libraries throughout the state. This June, \$28 million in library aid will be allocated. As the Lambeau Field issue was being debated in the legislature, our commissioners indicated to lawmakers and Packers officials that our agency had sufficient funds to lend the stadium district \$160 million or purchase their bonds in that amount and that we were willing to do so. The loan or bonds would be repaid from funds raised through a half-cent sales tax in Brown County, home of the Packers. A referendum creating this sales tax is on the September primary ballot. If it does pass, our agency will probably be chosen to finance the public portion of the costs because our lending rates will be lower than interest rates for revenue bonds. In addition, we do not charge any fees for our loans.

submitted by Dan Wisniewski,  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

## Your State

Share your success stories. Let us hear about innovative activities or programs going on in your state. Send, Fax or E-mail your articles to Ed Leary, President, ELRC.

Also, please keep us informed of any changes in address. Let us know your e-mail addresses so that we can continue to update our listing of State Land professionals.

# Y'all come to Tennessee — for the Fall Meeting of ELRC



**Sunday, September 24, 2000 Club House Inn, Nashville, Tennessee**

1:00-3:00 p.m. Executive Meeting in the Brentwood Room

**Monday, September 25, 2000**

7:30-8:30 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast Buffet at the Brentwood Room for Club House Inn Guests

8:30-9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:00-10:30 a.m. Development of the Cumberland Trail Concept/Multiple Land Uses  
Speaker: **Rob Webber** from the Cumberland Trail Conference

10:45-11:30 a.m. Forestry Best Management Practices  
Speaker: **Mike Countess** from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture

11:30 a.m.-NOON Federal Energy Regulation Commission Hydro Power Relicensing  
Speaker: **George Hemingway** from the U.S. Forest Service

12:00-1:00 p.m. Buffet Luncheon in the Brentwood Room

1:15 p.m. Leave Nashville for Shiloh Battlefield and Memphis

4:00-4:30 p.m. Shiloh Battlefield Civil War Battlefield Preservation  
Speaker: **Fred Proudly** from the Tennessee Historic Commission

4:30-5:30 p.m. Battlefield Tour by **Stacy Allen** from the National Park Service

5:30 p.m. Leave Shiloh for Dinner at the Cotton Patch Restaurant at Parkers Crossroads

7:15 p.m. Leave Restaurant for Memphis

8:45 p.m. Arrive at Memphis, overnight stay at the Downtown Holiday Inn

**Tuesday, September 26, 2000**

7:30-8:30a.m. Breakfast in the Union Café, Holiday Inn

9:00 a.m. Leave Memphis for Wolf River Canoe Trip

10:30 a.m. Arrive at Wolf River Canoe Rental  
Introduction to Wolf River  
Speakers: **Reggie Reeves** from the Department of Environment and Conservation  
**Larry Smith** from the Wolf River Conservancy and **John Gregory** from the  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

11:00 a.m. Wolf River Canoe Trip

12:30-1:30p.m. Lunch on the River  
Partnerships  
Speaker: **Larry Smith** from the Wolf River Conservancy

1:30-3:30 p.m. Continue Canoe Trip to Take Out

4:00 p.m. Leave for Jackson, Tennessee

5:30 p.m. Arrive Jackson, Tennessee for dinner at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant

6:30 p.m. Leave Jackson for Nashville

8:30 p.m. Arrive Nashville at the Club House Inn

**Wednesday, September 27, 2000 Club House Inn, Nashville, Tennessee**

7:00-8:00 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast Buffet at the Brentwood Room for Club House Inn Guests

8:30 a.m. Power Point Presentations that Win!  
Speaker: **Mike Lipsey** of the Lipsey Company

10:00-10:15 a.m. Coffee Break

10:15-NOON Power Presentations that Win! (Continued)

NOON-1:00 p.m. Lunch in the Brentwood Room

1:30 p.m. Leave Nashville for Cross Plains to visit BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Facility

2:00-3:30 p.m. Bureau of Land Management Overview by **Terry Lewis** from BLM, Eastern States

3:30-4:30 p.m. Tour of Historic Cross Plains with a stop at Thomas Drug's Old Time Soda Fountain

4:30 p.m. Leave Cross Plains

5:00 p.m. Arrive Nashville (brief stop at the Club House Inn)

6:00 p.m. Leave for Brentwood, Tennessee

6:30 p.m. ELRC-hosted Dinner at the Sportman's Lodge

8:00 p.m. Leave for Nashville

8:30 p.m. Arrive Nashville at the Club House Inn

8:30-10:00 p.m. Optional tour of Opryland Hotel

10:00 p.m. Leave Opryland Hotel

10:30 p.m. Arrive Club House Inn

**Thursday, September 28, 2000**

7:00-8:00 a.m. Complimentary Breakfast Buffet in the Brentwood Room for Club House Inn Guests

8:30-10:30 a.m. ELRC General Membership Business Meeting

10:30 a.m. ELRC Conference Adjourns

*ELRC Fall Conference continued from pages 4 & 5*

ELRC Conference Information contact Bob Ward with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (615) 532-0051.

A block of rooms has been reserved for ELRC at the Club House Inn in Nashville and the Holiday Inn in Memphis. Please make your reservations at both locations.

Club House Inn, Nashville (615) 244-0150 at \$72 plus tax (single) for Sunday night, September 24, and Tuesday through Thursday, September 26-28. Call no later than August 24 to guarantee your reservation.

Holiday Inn, Memphis (901) 525-5491 at \$79 plus tax (single rate) for Monday night, September 25. Call no later than August 27 to guarantee your reservation.

Meals provided with ELRC Conference Registration include: the Breakfast Buffet for guests of Club House Inn; all lunches; and one dinner at the Sportsman's Lodge in Brentwood, Tennessee. All other meals are responsibility of the conference participant.

If you have special dietary or accessibility requirements, please advise Bob Ward as soon as possible at (615) 532-0051 so that arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.

Airport: Nashville International Airport and Flight Information: (615) 275-1328

Recommended Shuttle Service: Gray Line (615) 275-1180; \$9.00 one-way from Airport to Club House Inn or \$16.00 round-trip. Shuttle runs every 15 minutes from the airport and every 30 minutes from Club House Inn. Please contact Gray Line at airport for details concerning departure schedule and location.

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Please let us know your plans to attend the Fall conference by completing the pre-registration form and mailing it to Dave Bergman by September 1. Conference fees may be paid onsite. Sorry, credit cards cannot be accepted.

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## **April's Joint Conference Focused on Conservation Issues**

**M**ore than 100 state and federal representatives attended the 4-day joint ELRC/WSLCA Conference held this past April in Washington, D.C. Distinguished speakers from the Federal Government such as Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes, Assistant Secretary Sylvia Baca, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Director Jamie Rappaport Clark, Bureau of Land Management Director Tom Fry and Forest Service Director Mike Dombeck presented their views and entertained questions on the increased recognition and degree of importance being put on America's public lands today. Although specific issues varied, all Federal speakers emphasized taking advantage of this renewed interest through stronger state/federal partnerships to enrich the quality of life for the people we serve.

Other issues relative to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), land and wildlife preservation, water pollution control regulations, easements on Public Lands, and resolution of encroachments and trespass, to name a few, were discussed. A synopsis of the meeting is now available and can be provided via e-mail. If you'd like a copy of the Synopsis, please e-mail your request for ELRC Synopsis to [ddowling@dcr.state.va.us](mailto:ddowling@dcr.state.va.us)



# ELRC FALL CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

Nashville, Tennessee  
September 25-29, 2000

Please complete the following and mail to Dave Bergman, ELRC Treasurer,  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 1952 Belcher Drive, C-4, Columbus, OH 43224  
by September 1, 2000.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title, Agency & State \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration Fee of \$150 will be paid:

Attached \_\_\_\_\_ or Onsite registration \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check \_\_\_\_\_ or Purchase Order \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ELRC; sorry, credit cards cannot be accepted

My Spouse will attend conference meal functions \_\_\_\_\_ Fee for Spouse \$50.00

My Spouse will participate in the canoe trip \_\_\_\_\_ Fee for Spouse \$25.00

Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

## U.S. Senate confirms Tom Fry as BLM Director

The U.S. Senate recently confirmed Tom Fry of Dallas, Texas to be the new Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Fry had been the Acting Director since November 1998.

BLM manages more land—264 million surface acres—than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 western states, including Alaska. Also, BLM administers more than 560 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. About 8,700 full-time permanent employees comprise the BLM's work force. The BLM preserves open space by managing the public lands for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, livestock grazing and mining and by conserving natural historical cultural and other resources found on the public lands.

Fry believes the principal challenges facing the BLM have to do with its management in four major categories: special areas, such as National Monuments and National Conservation Areas; energy and mineral resources; sensitive public lands located on the urban-suburban fringes; and the West's wide open spaces. His goal is to protect public lands resources while facilitating environmentally sound energy and mineral development.

The State Director for BLM's Eastern States Office is Ms. Gayle Gordon. Gordon has responsibility for BLM programs in the 31 eastern United States and is a Federal partner in the ELRC.

## ELRC/WSLCA and USDA, Forest Service Sign Memorandum of Understanding

In a brief ceremony during the ELRC/WSLCA Spring Conference, ELRC President Jim Lawler, WSLCA President Jeff Hagener, and USFS Director Mike Dombeck signed a Master Service-wide Memorandum of Understanding (SMU) to provide a general framework of cooperation between the parties concerning activities necessary to maintain and enhance the management of public lands and resources of the United States.

The Forest Service and members of the ELRC/WSLCA represent adjoining or intermingled public lands and have a wide range of matters of mutual interest, concern, and responsibility. These matters include providing benefits to the citizens of the Nation and promoting the health, diversity and productivity of public lands for present and future generations.

The ELRC/WSLCA and the FS agree that the future health, diversity and productivity of public lands are dependent upon the application of ecosystem management. In consideration of these goals, the parties will strive to work together effectively on common issues, demonstrating the value of public service; and through their actions increase respect and confidence in all levels of Government.

*Eastern States Land and Resources Council - ELRC - Serving the Needs of Land Professionals*

Ed Leary, President  
Eastern Lands & Resources Council (ELRC)  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671