May 9, 2013

The University of Kentucky’s Student Chapter of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation has been established as a Standing Committee of the UK Forestry Club in the spring of 2013. Currently, there are eleven members of the chapter and each student is registered as a student member of the Society. Our goal is to continue with an active chapter throughout the years and make available various opportunities for students to gain field-based experience through volunteer work and hands-on projects involving surface mine reclamation, most particularly reforestation of mined lands.

On March 29, 2013, the newly formed chapter had its first meeting at the Thomas Poe Cooper (Forestry Building). Green Forests Work Reforestation Coordinator, Nathan Hall, gave a presentation about the work that many organizations are doing to reclaim surface mines in Appalachia using the ARRI’s Forestry Reclamation Approach. Club Advisor, Dr. Chris Barton, spoke to the chapter about potential field projects for students in the coming semesters. The goals and objectives of this chapter were outlined and discussed during the meeting. As our first official service project, ASMR Student Chapter members participated as volunteer tree planting team leaders in two ARRI/GFW and Forestry club tree planting events in March and April 2013.

Officer elections were held in late April and the list was added to the official charter for the chapter. As the chapter progresses in the upcoming Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 Semesters, an annual report will be formed including all activities, projects, and other events. Attached you will find the ASMR Student Chapter Charter for University of Kentucky, Department of Forestry.

Another important goal of this chapter is to create awareness of the efforts initiated by such organizations as ARRI, educate the UK community about the different reclamation strategies, and to promote the American Society of Mining and Reclamaion as the professional organization that deals with all aspects of surface mine reclamation. We will manage to get our ideas and information across to students at UK by creating noninvasive and informative fliers for the student chapter.

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