



JOURNAL

Serving the Needs of Land Professionals
July 2003

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Alabama's Conservation and Natural Resources Department will be hosting the upcoming Fall 2003 Eastern Lands and Resources Council Conference and Reunion, marking the 20th Anniversary of the ELRC, in Point Clear, Alabama, October 5-9, 2003. See schedule of events and registration details inside....

Join Us for the Fall 2003 ELRC Conference and Reunion!

From October 5-9, 2003, the Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) will hold its fall 2003 meeting in the State of Alabama. You are invited to come and enjoy some "Old Southern Hospitality" in Point Clear, Alabama, at The Marriott Grand Hotel Resort, Gulf Club & Spa, located on the relaxing and historic waters of Mobile Bay.



Pier at Point Clear, Alabama

Join current, new, and former members of the ELRC for an easy-going and friendly meeting and reunion—with memories starting from the earliest days of the ELRC in the 1980s through today, with discussions on current State and Federal Government successes and challenges.

Highlights of the conference, include:

- ◆ An ELRC celebration of 20 years of service.
- ◆ Presentations on the Alabama Trust Fund—A Conservation Currency; a Federal Update on Land Management Issues; the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation; Weeks Bay NERR System; History of Off-shore Natural Gas in Alabama; Current Developments in Production, Procedures, Initiatives & Challenges of Offshore Gas Production; Dauphin Island Estuarium; The Bellingrath Legacy & Early Land

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Message from the ELRC President...



Dear Friends:

The ELRC is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year at our fall conference in Alabama, and Jim Griggs and his staff have put together a tremendous agenda filled with interesting and relevant topics. We will also be celebrating this anniversary with “official” and “unofficial” events.

In the newsletter you will see a list of places where the fall conferences have been held, and, in some cases, a brief description. It’s interesting to note the evolution of the organization, and some of the topics that have been discussed. While I have not attended most of them, some of you have, and I commend you for that. There is a lot of work in developing a conference that is beneficial to the members of ELRC. For those of you who have participated in these efforts, I want to thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.

In my opinion, the primary objective of these conferences is to learn from others through sharing information and ideas. We are all involved in managing our public resources, and we can all benefit from shared knowledge.

I hope to see many of you in Alabama, and look forward to another 20 years of successful ELRC conferences.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ralph J. Knoll".

Ralph Knoll
ELRC President

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:
Ralph Knoll, Director, Planning and Land Acquisition, Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022
E-mail: ralph.knoll@maine.gov
or call Ralph at (207) 287-4911

ELRC Conference/reunion...continued from page 1

Management Initiatives; the Forever Wild Program; Interagency Strategies & Management of Historical Sites; NGO Strategies for Land Acquisition; Management Initiatives & University Research; Management Challenges of Historic Facilities; Non-Governmental Organization/Government Strategies for Land Acquisition & Protection; and Non-Governmental Strategies for Stewardship Enhancements.

◆ Tours of Weeks Bay, Fish River, Dauphin Island, around offshore natural gas rigs, the Historic Sand Island Light House, and Mobile-Tensaw Delta (all by boat); and a tour of Historic Blakeley State Park, considered by many as the “South’s loveliest ghost town” and the site of the last major battle of the Civil War.

◆ To end a delightful week, an evening of storytelling and bluegrass band music.

Do you remember the ELRC when...?

Come to the ELRC's Alabama meeting and get your own copy of the historic briefs, which includes some of the following, excerpts:

*** 1983, Little Rock, Arkansas.**

*** June 22, 1984, Rosslyn, Virginia.** W. J. "Bill" McCuen, Commissioner of State Lands, State of Arkansas, called the meeting to order. The bylaws were presented for review and adoption; dues was discussed and set at \$300 per year; first year's officers were named—Stephen Zerangue, President (Louisiana), Stephen Gauger, First VP (Wisconsin), Rodney Sando, Second VP (Minnesota), Rollie Harmes, Third VP (Michigan), and Bob McCuen, Secretary/Treasurer (Arkansas). William "Doc" Dorasavage was made an Honorary-Lifetime Member of the ELRC.

*** October 18-19, 1984, Mackinac Island, Michigan.** ELRC President Stephen Zerangue expressed the need for a membership drive. Contact was made with the Western States Organization to hold a joint meeting with the ELRC officers. A newsletter and brochure were to be developed to provide for a flow of information to all member states.

*** September 10-13, 1985, Duluth, Minnesota.** Massachusetts has a \$143 million appropriation primarily for wetland acquisition and was contacted about membership. A suggestion was made to create subcommittees for surveying and submerged lands. There was a decision to bring the ELRC into view of the committee staffs in Congress.

*** October 14-17, 1986, Nashville, Tennessee.**

*** October 12-15, 1987, New Orleans, Louisiana.** Seventy-five participants attended, which included 16 States, 3 Federal Agencies, 1 associate member, 3 computer vendors, and 20 spouses. The conference highlighted 19 speakers and a 14-hour field trip into the Gulf of Mexico, complete with a visit to a Chevron offshore oil and gas production facility, inspection of an oil well being drilled in a Federal Wildlife Refuge, a view of coastal erosion problems, and State and Federal wildlife habitat management zones.

*** September 18-21, 1988, Albany and Lake Placid, New York.**

*** October 10-13, 1989, Key West & Key Largo, Florida.** Sixty-nine participants attended the meeting, which included 15 States, 3 Federal Agencies, 1 County representative, as well as representatives from the National Association of State Park Directors, the Florida Nature Conservancy, the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and 12 spouses. Pete Mallison, Director of Florida's Division of State Lands, served as Chairman and Host for the conference. ELRC President Roland Harmes (Michigan) announced that the Spring Meeting would be held jointly with the Western States Land Commissioners Association in Washington, DC. Charlie Daniels, Arkansas Land Commissioner, gave the Treasurer's report.

*** September 11-14, 1990, Glen Arbor & Mackinaw Island, Michigan.** Sixty-two participants attended, which included 16 States and five Federal Agencies. Rollie Harmes, Michigan DNR, opened the conference. Don Duden, President, ELRC, presented Rollie, the outgoing President of 4 years, with a Leadership Award in gratitude for his efforts as a founding father of the ELRC and for leading the Department through its earlier years.

*** September 30-October 3, 1991, Burlington, Vermont.** Twenty-seven attendees representing 12 States, 2 Federal Agencies, and two private organizations attended the Vermont conference. After registration, the group departed for a reception and cruise on Lake Champlain aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen.

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Do you remember...continued from page 3

*** September 27-30, 1992, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.** Steve Gauger, Secretary to the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, opened the meeting. Ed Leary, President of the ELRC and Director of Lands Administration, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, acknowledged 12 of 16 member States. Gauger introduced the Mayor of Lake Geneva, Bea Dale, and Gary Bauer, BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee District Manager. Meeting topics included Federal/State Land Transfer, Wisconsin's Stewardship Program, Multiple-Use Management, a panel discussion on Current Trends in Natural Resource Management, and Environmental Problems and Public Policy, to name a few.



Do you recognize these folks?

*** October 17-20, 1993, Biloxi, Mississippi.** Jimmy Palmer, Director of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality opened the conference. Pete Culp, newly appointed BLM-Eastern States Director, applauded the ELRC on its 10th anniversary.

*** September 17-20, 1994, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.**

*** September 27-30, 1995, Baltimore, Maryland.**

*** September 18-21, 1996, Cleveland, Ohio.**

*** September 30-October 3, 1997, Sebasco, Maine.**
Theme: Partnerships

*** September 13-16, 1998, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.**
Theme: Where the Land Meets the Water

*** October 24-28, 1999, Springfield, Virginia.**



ELRC members enjoyed a day of rafting on the river in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, during the fall meeting in 1994.



During the fall 1999 meeting, ELRC members took a break to visit Manassas Battlefield in Virginia.

*** September 24-28, 2000, Nashville & Memphis, Tennessee.**

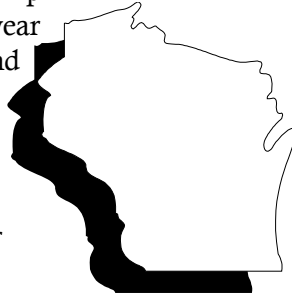
*** October 14-17, 2001, Tidewater, Virginia. Theme: Come back to where it all began...**

*** October 6-10, 2002, Boston, Massachusetts. Theme: Partnerships in Land Conservation & Stewardship**

What's Happening in YOUR State?

Wisconsin News

The Wisconsin Legislature has completed action on the State budget. One of the most controversial actions by the Legislature was a substantial cut in the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Stewardship program, a \$60 million per year bonding program for land and easement purchases. The Legislature also ordered the DNR to sell \$40 million worth of State land in the next 2 years. The Governor is expected to veto both provisions.



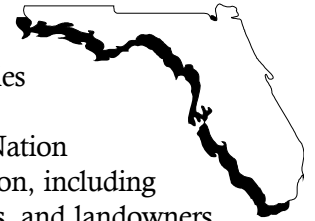
The Legislature also defeated a proposal in the Governor's budget that would have authorized the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) to invest in additional timber land. The Board had offered to sell 14,000 of its 80,000 acres in order to help support the additional purchases. The plan would have allowed the BCPL to consolidate its land holdings in nine northern Wisconsin counties (instead of 42 counties spread throughout the State), promoting more efficient management and solidifying the agency's niche in the northern hardwood market. The issue may be pursued through separate Legislation.

Contact: Dan Wisniewski, Secretary, Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (and ELRC 1st Vice President), (608) 266-8369
E-mail: dan.wisniewski@bcpl.state.wi.us

Florida to Hold a 2003 National Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference

In early December 2003, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida's five water management districts will hold the 13th annual Public Land Acquisition & Management Partnership Conference, at the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island Resort in Florida.

The conference will offer timely and useful information to public agencies and all others in Florida, the Southeast, and around the Nation interested in land conservation, including non-profits, service providers, and landowners.



Interesting and educational seminars and field trips are being planned as well as breakout sessions, focusing on Land Acquisition, Land Management, Conservation Easements, and Special Topics, such as an update on Federal conservation legislation, the how to's of public land protection referendums, innovative programs from around the nation, and opening more doors between State agencies and land trusts.

Conference speakers will include Dr. Brian Mandell, a lecturer in Public Policy at Harvard University, who will lead a session on Negotiations. Stephen Small, the noted attorney who wrote the Federal tax code on Conservation Easements, will also lead a continuing legal education program aimed at attorneys and other interested conservation professionals, as well as landowners.

Field learning opportunities will include a bus tour emphasizing barrier island ecology and history, a tour of a new biking trail, a boat trip to Cumberland Island with a walking tour on the Island, and tours of historic Fernandina Beach.

Other activities to look forward to include a dinner event held at historic Fort Clinch State Park, where re-enactors will tell the Fort's story, demonstrate life at the Fort, and answer questions.

We expect this conference to attract the largest and widest attendance in its history. For more information, contact the State of Florida's Web site at www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/conference/index.htm.

Contact: Nick Campanile, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, (850) 245-2642
E-mail: Nick.Campanile@dep.state.fl.us

Spring Conference on Public Lands Being Planned

“Meeting the Economic Challenges of Managing Public Lands” is the conference theme for the next Eastern Lands and Resources Council and Western States Land Commissioners Association (ELRC/WSLCA) Joint 2004 Spring Conference to be held in Washington, DC, from March 28-31, 2004.

This will be the conference you cannot afford to miss! It will be an opportunity to explore issues, such as Federal and foundation grants, carbon sequestration credits for forests, and environmental impact mitigation fees.

Conference sessions will examine ways to finance recreational opportunities and work with non-profit partners. It will look into issues involved with special acquisition options, such as brownfields, base closures, and the repositioning of timber companies. This conference will be an opportunity to compare field operations as well as fee structures. The timing will enable members to contact their representatives about appropriations, engage key administration officials, and maybe even catch the beginnings of spring.

If you have suggestions for specific subjects, cases or speakers, please contact Elinor Schwartz, Joint Spring Conference Coordinator, by E-mail at elinorschw@aol.com, or by telephone at (703) 920-5389.

Michigan DNR Reviews State Land Holdings

With 4.5 million acres of State forest and recreation lands, plus an additional 1.9 million acres of mineral rights, Michigan has one of the largest State forest systems in the country. Most of this land was tax-reverted in the 1930s and 1940s and was retained for long-term resource management.

State forest boundaries were established in the 1950s. These included additional lands deemed desirable for acquisition. In the ensuing

50 years, much of the private land inside the boundaries has been subdivided, thus has limited potential for resource management.



The boundaries are now being reviewed with the goals of consolidating holdings, enhancing resource management, and concentrating State resources on the most important areas.

The Department of Natural Resources is using a multi-disciplinary process for the review involving all resource divisions, which includes:

1. Initial internal review of all State forests, parks, and recreation and wildlife areas, with proposed new boundaries by September 2003;
2. Public involvement process prior to adoption of revised boundaries in November 2003;
3. Identification of “alternative conservation owners” by December 2003. These are conservation-oriented organizations who might serve as alternative owners of certain parcels which could continue to fulfill their conservation and recreation potential;
4. Development of a strategy for disposal of non-essential parcels by January 2004. Strategies may include transfer to local government or public entities, land exchanges, conveyance with conservation easements and other techniques. Proceeds from the sale of any land will be used for purchase of replacement parcels; and
5. Phase 2 will involve in-depth analysis of all land outside the new boundaries to identify properties not contributing sufficiently to department’s mission to warrant continued State ownership, with recommendations for alternatives.

Michigan uses a holistic resource management approach. The forestry and wildlife divisions are co-managers of all State forest lands. Regional ecosystem teams representing the multiple disciplines will play a role in determining boundary adjustments.

Contact: Ed Meadows, Manager, Acquisitions and Exchanges, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (and ELRC Member-at-Large), (517) 373-8243
E-mail: meadowse@michigan.gov



**EASTERN LANDS & RESOURCES COUNCIL
 FALL 2003 CONFERENCE
 October 5-9, 2003
 Point Clear, Alabama
 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Sunday, October 5

4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration
 6:00 p.m. Wine & Cheese **Reception.**

Monday, October 6

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast / Ongoing Registration
 8:30 a.m. **Welcome**, Jim Griggs, Alabama State Lands Division Director
 Mayor Tim Kant, City of Fairhope
 Ralph Knoll, President ELRC
 Barnett Lawley, Commissioner Alabama Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
 9:30 a.m. **ELRC Celebrates 20 Years of Service**
 Charlie Daniels, Arkansas Secretary of State
 Curt Jones, State Director, Retired, BLM-Eastern States
 Ed Leary, Operations Director, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
 10:30 a.m. Break
 10:45 a.m. **Alabama Trust Fund – A Conservation Currency**, Kay Ivy, Alabama State Treasurer
 11:15 a.m. **Federal Update on Land Management Issues**, Elinor Schwartz, Washington Representative for WSLCA
 11:45 a.m. Lunch at **Fairhope’s Overlook Park**
 1:30 p.m. **Fairhope Single Tax Corporation**, George Gilmore, President
 2:00 p.m. Travel Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
 2:30 p.m. **Weeks Bay NERR System and Boat Tour of Weeks Bay and Fish River**, L. G. Adams, Director of Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
 6:00 p.m. Return to Grand Hotel
 6:30 p.m. Dinner on your own. Shuttle buses available to Fairhope.

Tuesday, October 7

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 8:00 a.m. Depart for **Dauphin Island**
 10:00 a.m. **History of Offshore Natural Gas in Alabama**, Tom Joiner, Former State Geologist
 10:30 a.m. **Current Developments in Production, Procedures, Initiatives & Challenges of Offshore Gas Production**, Mike Leach, Operations Superintendent US East-Mobile Bay/Jay/BEC Operations
 11:30 a.m. Depart for Billy Goat Hole
 12:00 Noon **Boat tour around offshore natural gas rigs and the Historic Sand Island Light House**
 3:30 p.m. Return to Billy Goat Hole
 4:00 p.m. **Dauphin Island Estuarium**, Dr. George Crozier, Director of Dauphin Island Sea Lab & Marine Environmental Science Consortium
 5:00 p.m. Travel to **Bellingrath Gardens**
 5:30 p.m. **The Bellingrath Legacy & Early Land Management Initiatives**
 6:00 p.m. **Enjoy dinner among the beauty of towering oak trees draped with Spanish moss and the delicate scents of autumn blooms**
 8:30 p.m. Return to Grand Hotel.

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**EASTERN LANDS & RESOURCES COUNCIL
FALL 2003 CONFERENCE
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October 5-9, 2003
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**



Wednesday, October 8

- 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Depart for North Baldwin County
- 9:30 a.m. Boat departs for **Mobile-Tensaw Delta**
- 10:00 a.m. ***The Forever Wild Program***, Greg Lein, Assistant Director of State Lands Division
- 10:30 a.m. ***Interagency Strategies & Management of Historical Sites***, Dr. Lee Warner, Director of the Alabama Historical Commission
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch on site.
- 1:30 p.m. ***NGO Strategies for Land Acquisition***, Jeff Danter, Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of Alabama
- 2:00 p.m. ***Management Initiatives & University Research***, Keith Gauldin, Alabama State Lands Stewardship Officer
- 3:30 p.m. ***Management Challenges of Historic Facilities***, Joanne Flirt, Interim Director Historic Blakeley State Park
- 4:00 p.m. **Explore Historic Blakeley State Park, considered by many to be “the South’s loveliest ghost town” and is the site of the last major battle of the Civil War**
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner at the **Gatra L. Wehle Nature Center**
- 6:00 p.m. ***Non-Governmental Organization/Governmental Strategies for Land Acquisition & Protection***, Rebecca Pritchett, Alabama Wildlife Federation & Forever Wild Board Member
- 6:30 p.m. ***Non-Governmental Strategies for Stewardship Enhancements***, Grady Hartzog, Ducks Unlimited & Forever Wild Board Member
- 7:00 p.m. **Storytelling and Bluegrass Band**
- 9:00 p.m. Return to Grand Hotel. Van available for early departure.

Thursday, October 9

- 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Officers Business Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Conference Concludes.



Scenery in Alabama

Sunset photo by Dan Brothers

EASTERN LANDS & RESOURCES COUNCIL
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

HOTEL INFORMATION



*The Marriott
Grand Hotel
Resort, Golf Club & Spa*

The Marriott Grand Hotel, Resort, Golf Club & Spa
One Grand Boulevard
Post Office Box 639
Point Clear, Alabama 36564-0639
(251) 928-9201, (251) 990-6366
www.marriottgrand.com

To make reservations for the ERLC Fall Conference, call directly to the Marriott Grand Hotel at (251) 928-9201 or visit www.marriottgrand.com and click on Reservations, Group Code: EASEASA.

Reservations must be made no later than **Friday, September 5, 2003.**

Rooms are reserved at the following rates:

House Rooms: \$129.00 plus tax, single & double occupancy
Bayside Rooms: \$149.00 plus tax, single & double occupancy



Reservations received after September 5, 2003, will be accepted on a space available basis.

AIRLINE TRAVEL

US Airways has offered a travel discount for the **Eastern Lands and Resources Council, Gold File Number 62162822**, October 2-12, 2003, into **Mobile, Alabama.**

Discounts: From All Points on US Airways' Route System:

First/Envoy Class or Lowest Applicable Published Fares:

5% off following all rules and restrictions.
10% off with 60 day advance reservations/ticketing required. All other rules and restrictions apply.

Unrestricted Applicable "Y" Published Fare Types or B8US / B4AUS Fares:

10% off with 7 day advance reservations/ticketing required.
15% off with 60 day advance reservations/ticketing required. All other rules and restrictions apply.

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Restrictions:

- Travel valid round trip US Airways, US Airways Express, US Airways Shuttle and select US Airways Codeshare (United Airlines) flights **October 2-12, 2003**.
- No circle trips or additional stopovers permitted.
- Changes on the return are allowed at anytime provided applicable class of service is available and minimum stay requirements are met. Changes on codeshare flights must be made through US Airways or travel agency prior to flight check-in. Standby is allowed per fare rules. The standard service charge applies to ticket reissues and cancellations per fare rules.
- All itineraries involving codeshare flights must be e-ticketed.
- All discounted fares are capacity controlled.
- Discounts are not combinable with other discounts or promotions.
- Fares do not include surcharges or Passenger Facility Charges.
- The potential number of US Airways passengers is **40**. A minimum of **10** passengers traveling via US Airways is required to qualify for the above discounts.

Reservations: To obtain this discount, call US Airways' Group and Meeting Reservation Office toll free at (877) 874-7687; 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time (Refer to Gold File Number 62162822).

AIRPORT/TRANSPORTATION

The Mobile Regional Airport is located approximately 40 miles from the Marriott Grand Hotel, Resort, Golf Club & Spa. The Grand Hotel recommends using the hotel shuttle for travel to their facilities. The shuttle can be reserved through the Guest Services Desk at (251) 928-9201. The cost is \$45.00 per person, one way. Rental cars, limo service, and taxi-cabs are also available. For more information on ground transportation to and from the Marriott Grand Hotel, call (800) 357-5373, or visit www.mobairport.com and click on Ground Transportation.

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FALL 2003 CONFERENCE
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**FALL 2003 ELRC CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM**

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Guest _____

HOTEL

*Please make reservations directly with the Marriott Grand Hotel at (251) 928-9201 or www.marriottgrand.com with the Group Code: EASEASA. Reservations made after **Friday, September 5, 2003**, will be accepted on a space available basis.*

MEALS

Please note any special meal considerations:

___ Vegan/Vegetarian

___ No Shellfish

___ Other (explain) _____

OTHER

Please let us know of any special needs (handicap, etc.)

REGISTRATION FEE

___ \$325.00

___ \$50.00: ELRC spouse or guest

PAYMENT

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to **ELRC CONFERENCE**, and mail with completed form to:

Ms. Amy King
ADCNR State Lands, Coastal Section
Stonebrook Executive Complex, Suite B-1
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
Phone: 251-929-0900 / Fax: 251-990-9293

Joint Spring 2003 ELRC/WSLCA Conference



The Joint Spring 2003 ELRC/WSLCA Conference was held March 30, 2003, through April 2, 2003, in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference was "Integrating Land and Water Management." Representatives from various State and Federal Agencies met to discuss issues on water quantity and quality, waters rights and strategies for dealing with recurring droughts and floods, estuary restoration and appraisal techniques for aquatic lands as well as real estate issues, exchanges, rights of way, and energy legislation and regulations.



ELRC Members: Share your success stories. Let us hear about innovative activities or programs going on in your State. Send, fax, or Email your articles to Ralph Knoll, President ELRC.

**Ralph Knoll, President
Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC)
Maine Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022**

www.elrc.org

ELRC/WSLCA Joint 2004 Spring Conference — March 28-31, 2004, in Washington, DC