

# *Only Losers Sue White Knights*

by Barry Thacker, P.E.  
Geo/Environmental Associates, Inc.  
Knoxville, TN 37909

Fall 2013 Conference  
October 12, 2013





# Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc. (CCWF)

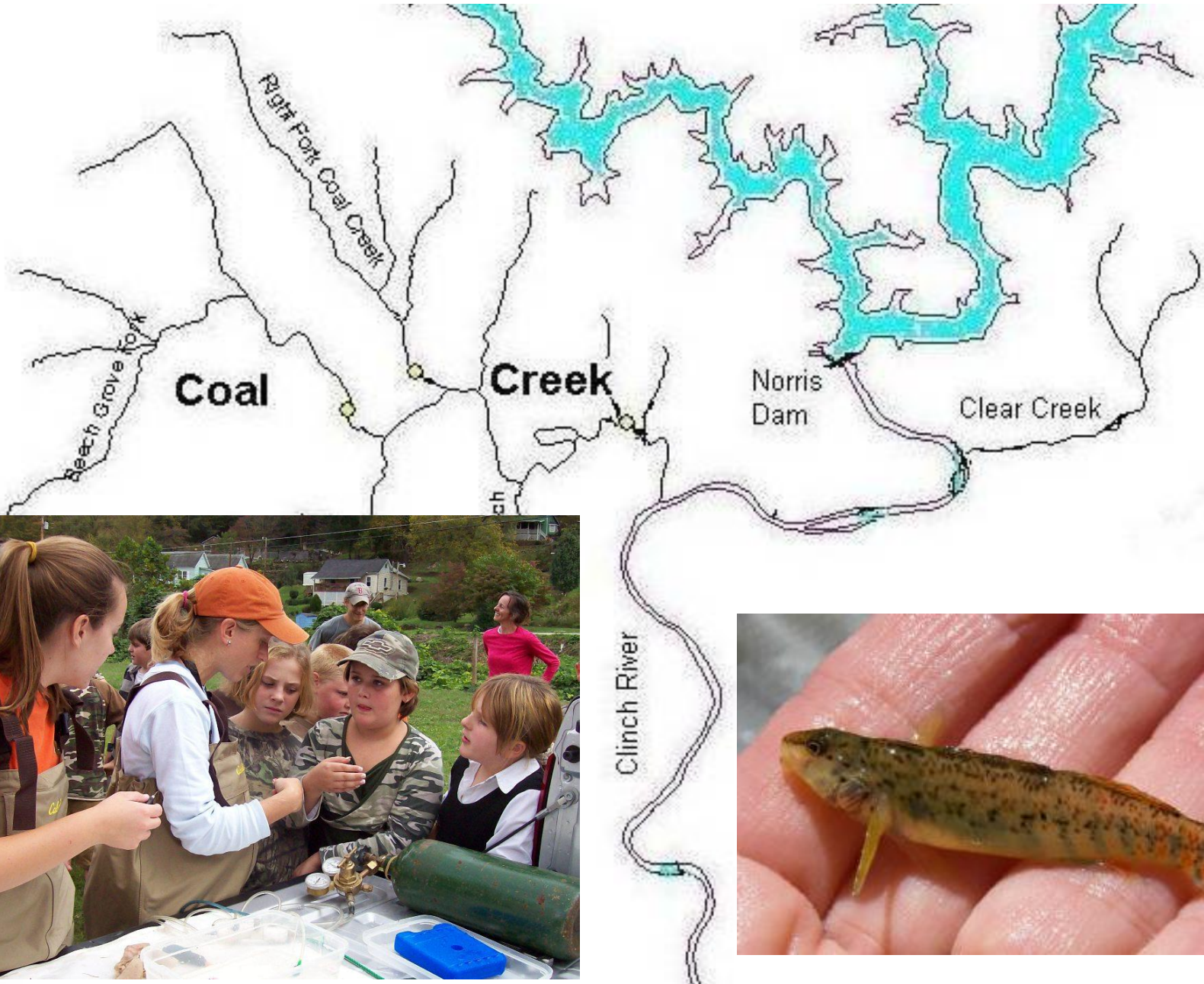


05/13/2005





# Reintroduction of native fish species to Coal Creek





## From creek life to college

### Coal Creek Health Day a keeper despite controversial beginning

By Bob Fowler

Saturday, October 27, 2012

BRICEVILLE — Local residents carrying protest signs greeted a fledgling nonprofit's first program to acquaint schoolchildren with creek life in their backyard 12 years ago.

"They said it was the government with this high-tech, space-age gear worrying about fish and ignoring people," recalled Barry Thacker.

Thacker said he listened to their concerns, ranging from frequent flooding of Coal Creek to a local health clinic shutting down.

For Thacker, it marked a vast change for his new Coal Creek Watershed Foundation.

Instead of only emphasizing the creek and cleanup efforts, Thacker said the foundation expanded its mission.

"We changed our entire focus to helping kids in the area get educations," he said Friday, the 12th annual Coal Creek Health Day. "That's the real motivation."



Students gather to see fish caught by Trout Unlimited volunteer Terry Douglas, left, and TVA biologist Charlie Saylor on Friday during the 12th annual Coal Creek Health Day in Briceville, Tenn. Local biologists were on hand to help Briceville Elementary School students survey aquatic life in order to judge the health of the creek in an event sponsored by the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation. (J. MILES CARY/NEWS SENTINEL)

*Five years ago, Rainbow Darters — expected inhabitants but missing from the creek — were placed in it. Health Day results from last year and Friday confirmed the species is reproducing...*

*"We're teaching them (students) the creek is more important than just water going down a channel," said Charlie Saylor with TVA.*

**CCWF board member Carol Moore sent Charlie an email, thanking him for his participation...**





Appalachian  
Regional  
Reforestation  
Initiative



***Restoring the American chestnut to the Appalachian Mountains on mined land prepared by the Forestry Reclamation Approach...***



PHOTO BY FRED BROWN/NEWS SENTINEL  
Jay Emison, 19, a civil-engineering student at the University of Tennessee, plants American chestnut seeds Friday on Zeb Mountain. The demonstration project is to determine the best planting methods to help restore the American chestnut to Appalachian forests. The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative, the American Chestnut Foundation, the University of Tennessee, the Office of Surface Mining and the state of Tennessee were part of Friday's venture.

## Seeds of transformation

Project aims to hone planting method for chestnuts on mine site

ON KNOXNEWS.COM  
Video: Scenes from the American chestnut seed planting on Zeb Mountain.

BY FRED BROWN  
news@knoxnews.com



Daniel Roling, CEO of National Coal Corp., was one of more than 60 volunteers who showed up for Friday's planting, deemed "Operation Springboard," on the mine company's site in Campbell County.

***CEO Daniel Roling agreed: "Everything we have been seeing across the country in reforestation suggests this is the way to go."***

help them grow on the crown-thick seeds in mounds of sandstone rock spoil from National Coal's mining operations on Zeb Mountain.

Volunteers included retired Knoxville heart surgeon Hiroshi Toyohara; Earl Bandy, field office

See CHESTNUTS on A8





## Tennessee Hosts Arbor Day Event

By Christopher Miller

The 2012 Tennessee Arbor Day tree-planting event was held on May 4, 2012. The event was organized by Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, Inc. (CCWF) and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), and held at a Dalco Coal Company deep mine in Morgan County, TN.

Prior to the event, approximately 1.5 acres of compacted backfill were ripped by Duane's trucking and excavating using the Forest Reclamation Approach method.

Fifteen adult volunteers representing the Tennessee General Assembly, Tennessee Mining Association, Geo/Environmental Associates, Inc., Clinch River Trout Unlimited, the CCWF, and OSM participated in the event, along with 100 students from Lake City and Norwood Middle Schools. In total approximately 115 people attended the event.

The students had each grown their own American chestnut seedlings at school during the winter in preparation for the event, and were eager to plant them.

Along with the 100 chestnuts, 600 seedlings of northern red oak, yellow-poplar, green ash, flowering dogwood, and white pine were planted at the event. Students and adults were educated on how to properly plant bare-root seedlings by OSM, and learned the history of the American chestnut and the Coal Creek War from CCWF members.



Students enjoyed their day and some planted American chestnut seedlings.



(Far right) Earl Bandy, Field Office Director, OSM, Knoxville, TN, took a break with some students.



(Second from right) Dick Geiger from Clinch River Trout Unlimited helped students' plant seedlings.



State Sen. Becky Duncan Massey (left) and OSM forester Chris Miller (right) planting American chestnut seedlings

**When you help CEO's, elected officials, and leaders of government agencies get good press coverage, you make friends and clients for life.**

Duane's Trucking and Excavating ripped the site.

***Looking your best in photographs!***



## GHOSTS OF CONVICT MINERS

In 1877, convicts replaced striking Welsh miners in the Knoxville Iron and Coal Company Mine, located in the hollow to the south. Prison records show that 131 convict miners died there from 1877 to 1893, while others were caught igniting methane gas entering the mine to cook wild game over open flames.

Some believe the 1902 Fraterville Mine explosion was caused by ghosts of convict miners once again igniting methane gas to cook wild game. Fieldstones mark where convicts are buried, and only they know the origin of burn-spots and charred animal bones beside their graves.

She conducted research for Dr. Eirug Davies of Harvard University on the Welsh miners and iron workers who helped East Tennessee rebuild after the Civil War.

# THE WELSH OF TENNESSEE

Eirug Davies

Victoria Wright (above left and lower right) is the poster child for our scholars program...



## Educating from the bottom up: Foundation helping Coal Creek children

Youth learn about heritage

By Fred Brown Monday, December 10, 2012

BRICEVILLE — This is how you make a difference in people's lives: You go into a community, soak up the history, locate the central elementary school, and start teaching the children they matter and that they are descended from Welsh Lords of the Isles.

And then you begin encouraging those elementary schoolchildren to



Carol Moore, right, of Geo/Environmental Associates Inc., helps Briceville Elementary School students, left to right, Alexis Brown, Madison Byrge and Rebecca Byrge ring the bell in the 124-year-old Briceville Church on Thursday. The students heard a lecture by Harvard University professor Eirug Davies about the Welsh of Tennessee in the church that was built by Welsh coal miners.



Barry Thacker, center, recognizes Harvard University professor Eirug Davies after a lecture in Briceville Church on Thursday. Davies spoke to Briceville Elementary School's fourth- and fifth-

get excited about their roots, reading and responsibilities.

That is precisely what Barry Thacker and Carol Moore of Geo/Environmental Associates Inc., a Knoxville engineering firm, have done.

Thacker is president and principal geoenvironmental engineer, and Moore is in charge of the firm's business administration and development, as well

*This is how you make a difference in people's lives: You go into a community, soak up the history, locate the central elementary school, and start teaching the children they matter and that they are descended from Welsh Lords of the Isles.*

*Victoria Wright, a 17-year-old senior at Anderson County High School said... "My plan is to go to the University of Tennessee to study engineering."*

***Now, that's something the Lords of the Isles could appreciate: a maiden becoming educated in the ways of iron.***



## Barry Thacker, P.E.: Engineering Community Change

01/28/2013

*By Debra K. Rubin*

**ENR.com**  
Engineering News-Record

In a corner of Appalachia used to visits from bureaucrats and other would-be do-gooders, it's not hard to understand why, a decade ago, the people of Tennessee's Coal Creek region were suspicious of geotechnical engineer Barry Thacker's offer to clean up their mine waste-tainted waterways.

Thacker, president of Knoxville-based GeoEnvironmental Associates Inc. and an avid fisherman, thought his skills could improve the trout habitat, but he never envisioned the life-changing impact his Coal Creek Watershed Foundation (CCWF) would have on the community of Briceville, Tenn.

The foundation has connected its members, young and old, to their unique environment and rich coal mining history, as well as to the poverty-eradicating power of a college degree and new revenue-producing options.

To date, his non-profit group has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships to 32 students who had few, if any, choices for higher education.

As the first high school student there to take community college classes before graduation, senior Victoria Wright is now eyeing a career in engineering or robotics technology.

"My grandpa always told me to be a nurse, but I grew up in the workshop with my dad and I didn't want to do what every high school girl was doing," she says.

"During high school [the foundation] give us a chance to do community service for the exchange of a \$10,000 scholarship. We learn about our community and we've even been able to help a [Harvard University] author writing about the history of the Welsh coal miners here."

Thacker and Carol Moore, the firm's administrative manager and CCWF's go-to person, have become Briceville's key academic partners—in and out of class—from kindergarten on.



Mentor extraordinaire Thacker (center, above) takes kids on annual check of creek's water quality. (Photo by J. Miles Cary, Knoxville News-Sentinel)

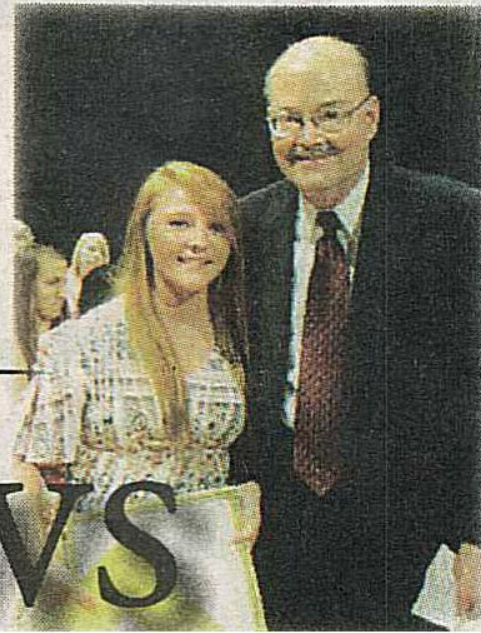


***“Being quoted in ENR is a great start to Victoria’s engineering career!”***

## **Early warning**

Victoria Wright let the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation know she was in line for a scholarship ... In the first grade.

Page 2-A



# Courier News



**Debra’s response upon learning of Victoria’s scholarship award: *“The industry needs more iron maidens.”***

**So far, we’ve helped 33 of our scholars attend college...**

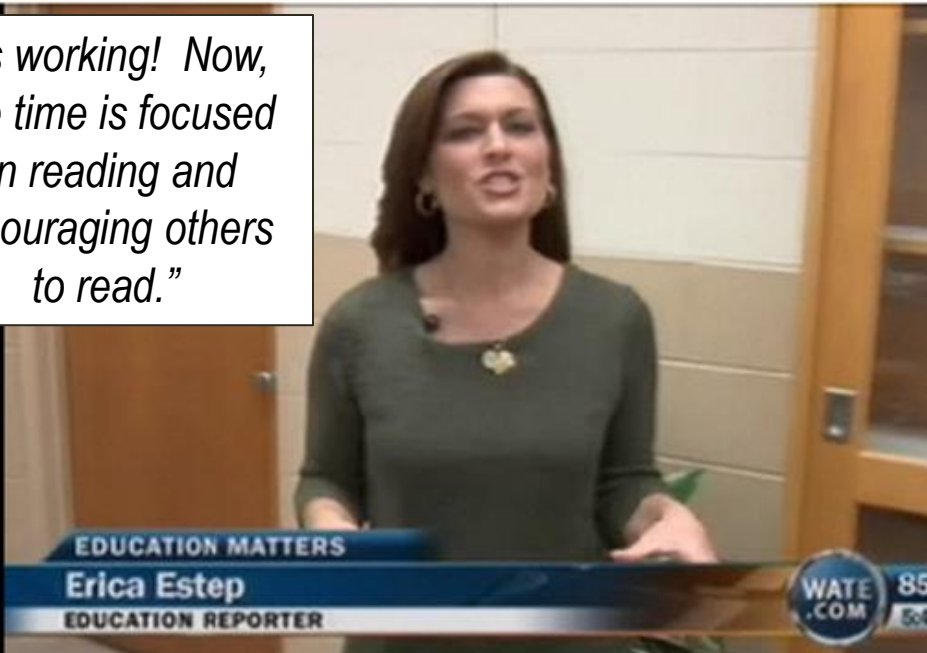
**How can you be seen as the proverbial “White Knight” in your community?**



## Briceville Elementary School participates in national reading initiative

Posted: May 24, 2012 6:09 PM EDT

*"It's working! Now, free time is focused on reading and encouraging others to read."*



*"You can get a Kindle Fire, iPods, Nerf guns, skateboards, but I want The Xbox."*



*"It makes it more fun to read."*



## The Courier News

SUNDAY



PHOTOS BY CHRIS SILCOX

### Engineering better readers in Briceville

Coal Creek Watershed Foundation's Barry Thacker (left) and Briceville Elementary teacher Michelle Ladue give the BES students a rundown of the prizes they can earn as incentives in the "Engineering Better Readers" program that was kicked off at the school during a surprise morning assembly on Friday, Feb. 10. After learning of the program the students were awed when Thacker and Coal Creek

Watershed Foundation Vice President Carol Moore, along with the BES faculty, pulled up the curtain on the cafeteria stage to unveil a stage stacked full of prizes the students can potentially win through the



**If you're too cheap to invest in Engineering Better Readers...**



Write editorials for newspapers where you live or work to share your expertise with others...

**sunday  
gazette-mail**

Sunday, February 22, 2009

## Op-Ed Commentaries

February 22, 2009

**Barry Thacker**

### Outlawing leaky dams on coal property would be a mistake

My guess is that Dam Design 101 is not taught in journalism school. How else can the Gazette justify its opinions and recommendations on the topic?

When I took the class, my engineering professor said, "Lesson 1 is that all dams leak, which is why control of seepage is Lesson 2. Lesson 3 is to study the first two lessons and learn that our control measures may cause a substantial increase in seepage rather than a decrease."

Here are some additional lessons I've learned over the past 30 years as a dam designer at the school of hard knocks.

Buffalo Creek was a "crude" coal refuse dam that was not designed with safety in mind, but built to meet water quality discharge standards. Why? Water quality can be measured easily and cited, but safety is harder to evaluate. Not until a coal refuse dam failed did safety merit equal consideration with water quality.

The initial investigators of that failure jumped to the conclusion that the dam failed as a result of excessive seepage and internal erosion, also called piping. Detailed investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Mines concluded: "There were earlier reports of piping. Neither field evidence nor engineering analysis substantiates this condition [piping] as the principal cause of failure."

According to the Bureau of Mines, the Buffalo Creek dam failed due to "high internal pore pressures." Coal refuse dams today are designed with extensive internal drainage provisions to reduce pore water pressures. Such control measures can substantially increase the rate of seepage as predicted by Lesson 3.

Furthermore, modern coal refuse dams are designed and built to strict standards such as storing and safely passing runoff from a 40-inch rainfall event. Just as with other types of dams, coal refuse dams serve as flood control structures to reduce peak storm flow for areas downstream of the dam.

Each lift of fill placed in a coal refuse dam must be tested to verify that it has been compacted to the same standards as fill placed beneath multi-story buildings. Instrumentation installed to measure internal pore water pressures is monitored at least once a week and an annual certification report is prepared by a licensed professional engineer. Design, construction and performance monitoring are evaluated by experts from at least three government agencies.

During closure, the impoundment is capped to eliminate impounding capability. The reclaimed dry fill can then be returned to productive use such as the site that is now part of a shopping complex in Morgantown, West Virginia.

**knoxnews**  
Knoxville News Sentinel

## Do we even need coal now that we have electricity?



Barry Thacker, Citizen's Voice  
Saturday, March 8, 2008

The Tennessee Legislature is considering the Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act. Although its intent is to outlaw surface mining on mountain ridges, the language of the act may have more widespread impact.

Deep-mined coal must typically be cleaned in a processing plant to remove impurities before that coal is burned in a power plant to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Two-thirds of the coal mined in the United States is by surface mining, and most surface-mined coal cannot be mined economically by underground mining methods.

Surface mining allows coal to be removed selectively so it does not have to be cleaned in a coal-processing plant, but much more overburden rock fill must be removed to access coal seams than by deep mining. The proposed legislation would ban placement of fill within 100 feet of streams, which mining opponents want defined as having a drainage area of 14 acres or more.

If this legislation is passed, it could essentially ban all coal mining because impurities removed from deep-mined coal require more than 14 acres for disposal, and even small surface mines disturb more than 14 acres.

In Tennessee, 64 percent of our electricity is generated by burning coal. The Tennessee Valley Authority tried to eliminate the need for burning coal in the 1970s with its plan to build replacement nuclear reactors, but public concerns about safety and high costs forced the plan to be abandoned.

That failed effort put TVA billions of dollars in debt with little benefit, as evidenced by the fact that more coal is burned today to generate electricity

## Comment

"Give light and the people will find their own way."

B4 Saturday, September 22, 2007

### CITIZENS VOICE

# Buffer-zone rule needs clarity

BY BARRY THACKER

As a college intern working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1975, I researched 19th-century land grants to find where grist mills had been located adjacent to rivers. The Corps used this documentation to claim jurisdiction over those streams based on their historic use as navigable waterways for transporting goods downstream to market.

When Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, it used a stream definition similar to the Corps' in establishing a buffer-zone rule to place restrictions on mining activities adjacent to major waterways. SMCRA regulations recognize that overburden and impurities mined with coal require disposal and provide stringent procedures for such practices in smaller watersheds.

Recent legal challenges to surface

mining by protest groups now want no disturbance within a 100-foot buffer zone of intermittent streams having drainage areas of about 14 acres, which are normally dry and flow only in response to rainfall events. Even a single underground mine disturbs more than 14 acres, so prohibiting filling in small watersheds would abolish all coal mining, not just surface mining.

In the Tennessee River valley, 64 percent of our electricity is generated from burning coal, and 29 percent comes from nuclear reactors. TVA is adding new reactors at a rate of one unit every five years to help meet increasing demands for electricity. Add the current expansion rate in renewable green power to the mix, and even with energy conservation and no growth in demand, it would take TVA at least 65 years to replace its current coal-fired generating capacity. If the buffer-zone rule is applied to small watersheds and coal mining ceases today, how would our demand for electricity be met for the next 65 years?

If coal mining is banned in areas impacting more than 14 acres, should all

construction with similar disturbance be banned? If so, every town, highway, commercial development, subdivision and farm would be adversely impacted.

Even the recent construction of the News Sentinel building would have violated an intermittent stream buffer-zone rule, as would the construction of TVA's wind turbines on Buffalo Mountain and any new nuclear reactors.

Taking the buffer-zone rule to such an extreme seems silly when compared to the infrastructure already in place around us. Yet the U.S. Office of Surface Mining is faced with lawsuit after lawsuit making such demands. Even when protest groups lose the lawsuits, they win when the government reimburses their legal fees. Consequently, attorneys and expert witnesses wait in line to represent them, while taxpayers fund these exercises in futility.

What will this rule make legal that was illegal before? Nothing. OSM is clarifying the intent of Congress when SMCRA was enacted, so it can devote its time to enforcing mining regulations and reclaiming abandoned mine land instead of

fighting frivolous lawsuits.

Has there been a significant difference in the way the Bush administration treats the mining buffer-zone rule compared to previous administrations? No. According to its Web site, "OSM has been consistent in its interpretation and enforcement of the stream buffer-zone rule requirements over the past 30 years."

If protesters want to reduce the amount of coal that must be mined to fuel our economy, they can voluntarily pay more for renewable energy through TVA's Green Power Switch program or simply turn the circuit breakers in their offices to the "off" position. Under no circumstances should taxpayers be funding the legal games of protesters to reinterpret what SMCRA already defines.

Barry Thacker is an engineer, president of Geo/Environmental Associates Inc. and founder of the nonprofit Coal Creek Watershed Foundation Inc. in Knoxville. His e-mail address is barryt@geoe.com.

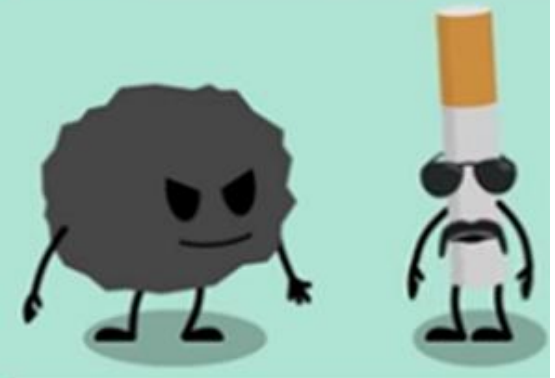
**NEWS  
SENTINEL**

Established Dec. 23, 1886  
Bruce Hartmann, publisher  
Jack McElroy, editor  
Hoyt Canady, editorial



Developing skill in writing editorials helps prepare you for the day when you and/or your industry come under attack

New York City Mayor Bloomberg Commits \$50 Million Toward Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign



Coal and his new friend,  
the serial killer



THE **COAL** VS  
**CLEAN ENERGY**  
SHOW







We found out the hard way that Tennessee is “low-hanging fruit” in the Beyond Coal Campaign...

In 2012, environmentalists teamed with faith-based organizations to get coal mining banned in TN. I call that alliance, ***THE EMPIRE...***

## Group Prays To Stop Mountaintop Coal Mining





Meanwhile, TV ads funded by **THE EMPIRE** ran state-wide:  
*We love our mountains in Tennessee, but those mountains are under attack!*





*(The active mining shown in the ads was done around Hazard, KY, not in TN).*

# TENNESSEE SCENIC VISTAS PROTECTION ACT



Contact Governor Bill Haslam  
615-741-2001  
[bill.haslam@tn.gov](mailto:bill.haslam@tn.gov)

*(The pristine Great Smoky Mountains shown in the ads contain no coal-bearing formations).*





**The mining shown in the TSVPA  
ads enables Hazard, Kentucky, to  
expand above floodplain level  
at no cost to taxpayers...**



**...whereas mountains in  
the Tennessee coalfields  
were severely impacted  
by unregulated strip  
mining after  
World War II...**



*"Big Rock Candy Mountains Protection Act"*

## Re-mining old sites helps restore land

**BARRY THACKER**

**GUEST COLUMNIST**

Saturday, March 10, 2012

Don't shoot the messenger, but the "pristine" mountaintops that concerned citizens want to save from coal mining in Tennessee exist only in the words of a song.

In the real world, they are typically undisturbed plateaus ringed with exposed highwalls. There may be birds and bees and cigarette trees up there, but it's hard to tell because highwalls restrict access.

In the Big Rock Candy Mountains, there were no short-handled shovels, axes, saws or picks. Elsewhere, heavy earth-moving equipment developed during World War II was put to use after the war in mining.

The highwalls were created by miners who did not realize the toll that strip mining would take on the environment.

That practice ended in 1977, when Congress set stringent water quality and reclamation standards by enacting the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act; but by then, the damage had been done. That's not alcohol or lemonade trickling down the rocks

ten above the elevation of 2,000 feet.

Highwall-mining machines are then used to perform underground mining from the base of the stable slopes without having to send miners underground.

In the process, exposed highwalls are backfilled by a method called the Forestry Reclamation Approach. Researchers have demonstrated that trees grow twice as fast on FRA sites as in natural forest settings. Not even in the Big Rock Candy Mountains would that be possible.

Backfilling exposed highwalls and replacing them with forestland makes the undisturbed plateaus accessible to wildlife. Roads created during re-mining provide access for outdoor enthusiasts, provided they have permission from landowners to be there. Re-mining also allows surface-water drainage courses to be rebuilt, thus reducing erosion and improving the quality of runoff from reclaimed sites.

So, if re-mining is beneficial, why don't conser-

blight-resistant American chestnuts into Appalachian forests.

As an engineer, I support re-mining at highwall-ringed plateau sites, regardless of the elevation, because it helps provide the fuel to generate half our nation's electricity using a process that is statistically safer than working underground.

Thousands of coal miners died each year in underground mining accidents before World War II. Surface mining now accounts for two-thirds of the coal produced in this country, and 21 miners died on the job last year. That's a 99 percent reduction in the annual coal-mining fatality rate.

Anti-mining activists claim that coal mining provides only a few hundred jobs in Tennessee. Well, mine is one of them. They may dream of a place where handouts grow on bushes, and they hung the jerk who invented work, but I prefer working to earn a living.

Barry Thacker is president of Geo/Environmental Associates Inc. of Knoxville.

*Don't shoot the messenger, but the "pristine" mountaintops that concerned citizens want to save from coal mining in Tennessee exist only in the words of a song...*

*An email sent to my clients and potential clients from the Tennessee Mining Association...*

Today the *Knoxville News Sentinel* published an opinion article by Barry Thacker extolling the virtues of Tennessee's mining industry and the pitfalls of the Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act (TSVPA).

With only days left until the Tennessee Senate will vote on this important issue, it would be great if we could generate enough interest to expose the **facts** of this debate.



*Environmentalists are being deceptive...*



Lt. Gov.  
Ron Ramsey

*THE EMPIRE strikes back with new  
state-wide TV ads showing re-  
mined sites in Tennessee...*

King Mountain  
Tennessee



THE  
AMERICAN  
CHESTNUT  
FOUNDATION



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Not shown in ads...

Highwalls left from  
pre-1977 mining







***“The most heavily-mined areas have the most poverty...***

***Experts tell us you can’t even grow trees on those piles of rubble.”***



**DAWN COPPOCK**  
LEAF  
**INSIDE TENNESSEE**

## **TN SCENIC VISTAS PROTECTION ACT**

- Ban strip mining above 2,000 ft.
- Exception: already permitted mines
- 2008 - mining on 5 mountains allowed
- 2012 - mining on 13 mountains allowed

***“Inner cities have high poverty, yet no mining, so quit blaming mining and start attacking the root-cause of the problem, the education level of Appalachian-coalfield residents...***



**BARRY THACKER**  
TENNESSEE MINING ASSOCIATION  
**INSIDE TENNESSEE**

**(Two can play at that game)...**

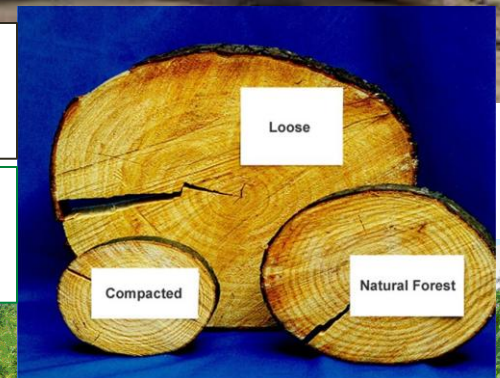


*...Experts who say reclaimed mines are unfit for tree growth are wrong.*



*Researchers at area universities have documented that trees grow twice as fast on FRA sites as in a natural forest setting.*

**TACF predicts that, “Restoration of the American chestnut will be the greatest environmental achievement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century...”**

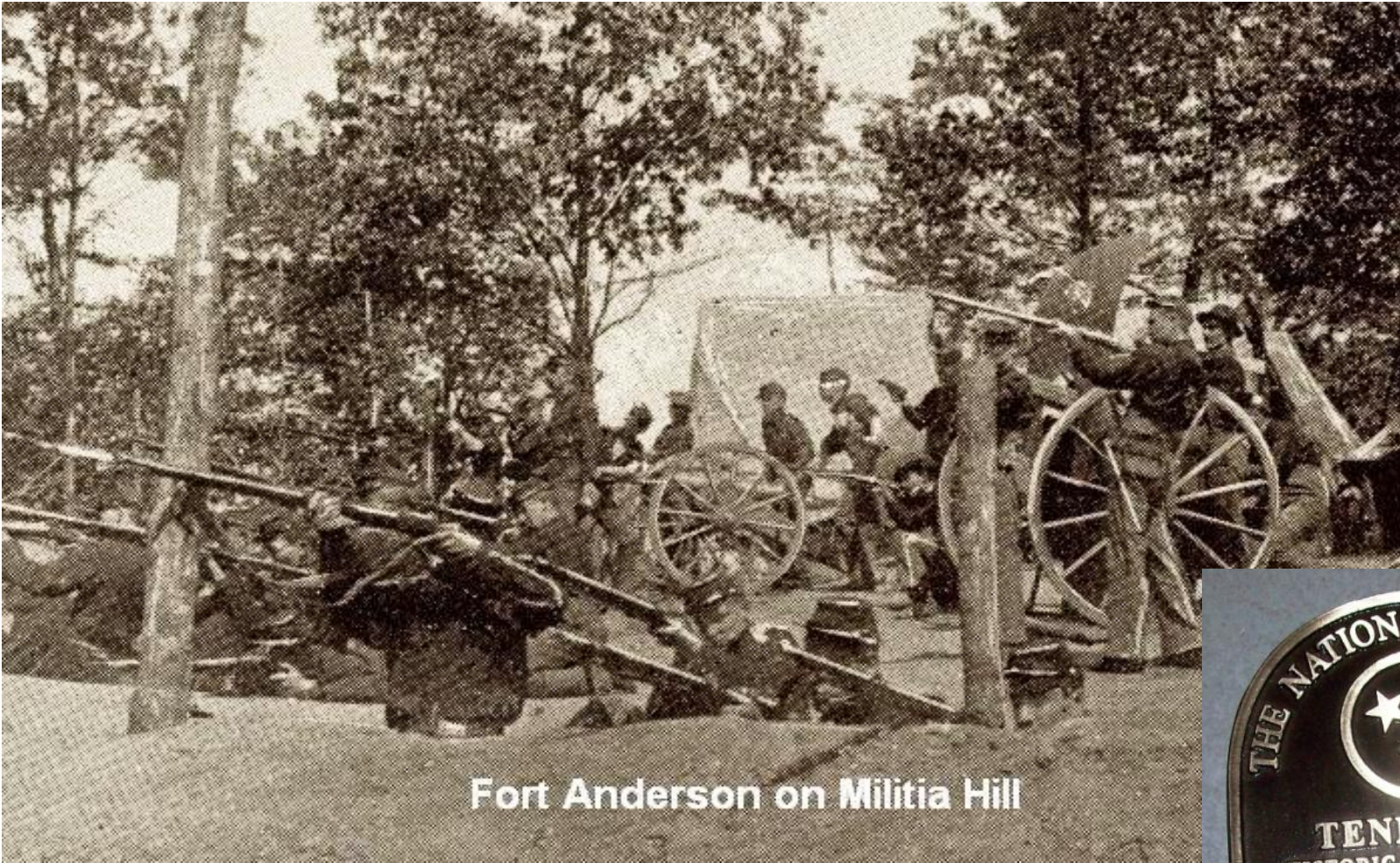


**Before re-mining**

**After re-mining and restoration  
using the Forestry Reclamation  
Approach (FRA)**



TSVPA died in committee, but was endorsed by every major newspaper editorial board in the state, so we expect *THE EMPIRE* will strike back...



Fort Anderson on Militia Hill

In preparation for the next attack, we continue to get new sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places to promote mining history tourism in the watershed, thus proving that tourism and mining are compatible.





## 'Peace treaty' signed to end Coal Creek War

By Bob Fowler

Saturday, May 18, 2013

LAKE CITY — The hostilities, at long last, are over.

A peace treaty formally ending the infamous Coal Creek War of 1892 was signed Friday on tree-shrouded Militia Hill, a knoll of remote Vowell Mountain overlooking Lake City.



Barry Thacker, president of Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, explains the history of the Coal Creek War during a ceremony Friday at the site of Fort Anderson on Militia Hill. (BOB FOWLER/NEWS SENTINEL)

The ceremony also recognized the site as the location of Fort Anderson, where Tennessee National Guardsmen fought a pitched battle with striking coal miners upset that the state had brought in convicts to work in their mines.

Trenches dug by guardsmen as battlements and protections from attacking coal miners are the only visible remnants of the fort.

The location, featuring nine markers describing that bloody chapter of Anderson County's past, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places, said Barry Thacker, president of Coal Creek Watershed Foundation.

The nonprofit organization for 13 years has been working to improve the environment, living conditions and the education of residents of the isolated mountainous area, pockmarked by abandoned coal mines.

And Friday's ceremony was another bid to acquaint students of tiny Briceville School with their area's colorful past.



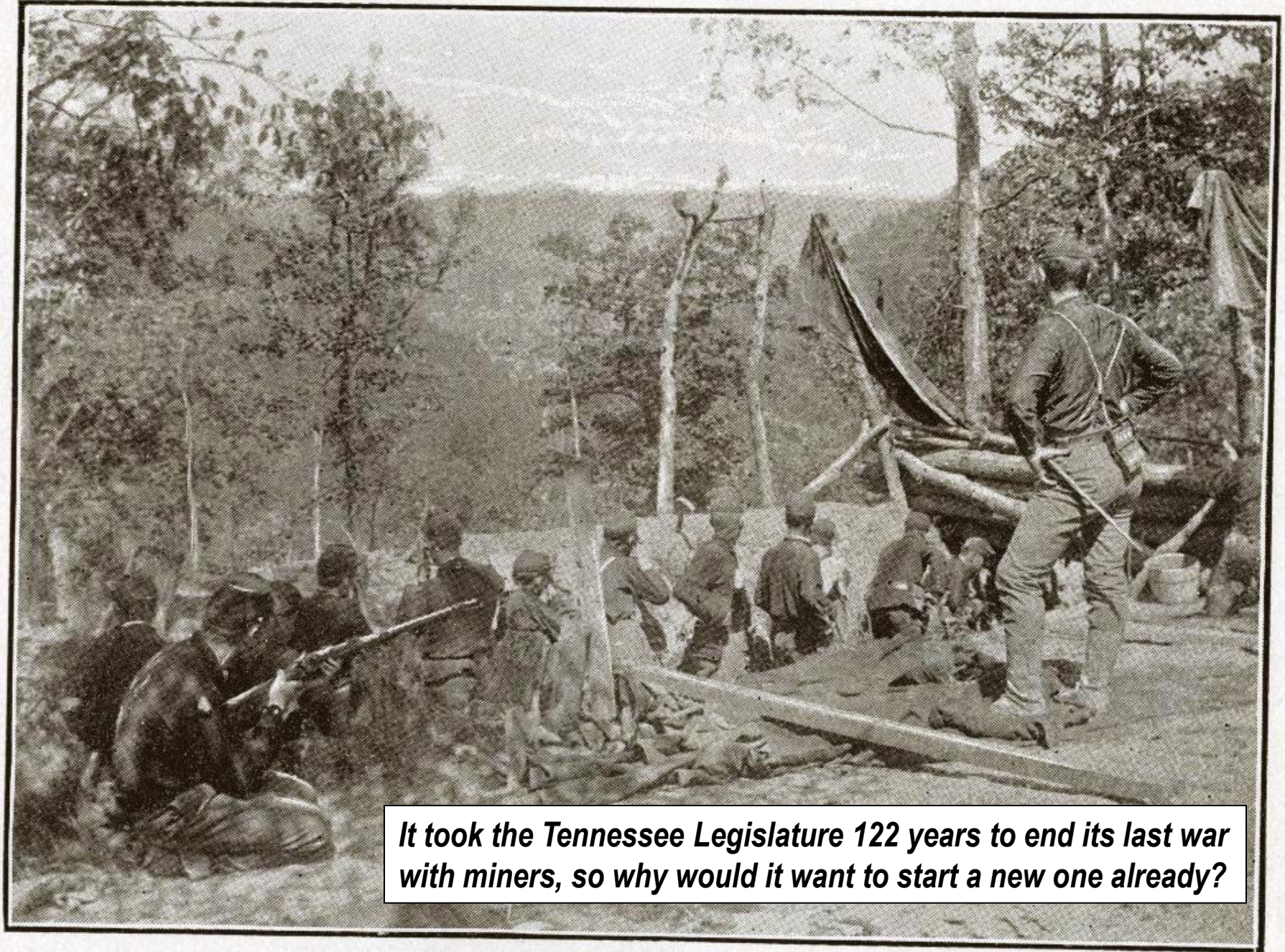
CHRIS SILCOX

Several state and local dignitaries joined Barry Thacker and Carol Moore, of the Coal Creek Watershed Foundation, on Friday morning, May 17, for a ceremony "officially" ending hostilities of the Coal Creek War with the signing of a Peace Treaty some 125 years after the conflict subsided. Fourth- and fifth-grade students at Briceville Elementary School participated in the event by respectively signing the treaty and assisting in mounting a plaque declaring the site among the National Register of Historic Places. Pictured with the students include: (far left) Richard Burroughs, the Chief of Staff for Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank; (second from left) Carol Moore, Coal Creek Watershed Foundation volunteer and board member; (fifth from left wearing black sweater) Anderson County Mayor Terry Frank; (left center with treaty) Dist. 33 State Representative John Regan; (back center) Dist. 4 Anderson County Commissioner Tim Isbel; (front right) Coal Creek Watershed President Barry Thacker.

**County Mayor Terry Frank then reminded students how fortunate they are that Thacker and Moore make such a profound effort to educate Briceville students on the rich history of their ancestors and reward the students for their accomplishments.**

**--We now have lots of ammunition to repel future attacks!--**





***It took the Tennessee Legislature 122 years to end its last war with miners, so why would it want to start a new one already?***

In the Trenches Answering the Attack of the Miners.



***THE EMPIRE might want to rethink future attempts to take our mining jobs in Tennessee, because we own the high ground on Militia Hill now!***





# Training exercise to assess if your firm is a good corporate citizen

1. Attorneys assess the public image of a firm when advising a client on whether or not to file a lawsuit. You just saw what we've done to enhance our image as a good corporate citizen, thus making us less likely to be sued.

2. Start an office meeting of your senior professionals by explaining how maintaining a good corporate image is a powerful loss-prevention practice.

3. Ask attendees to list their accomplishments that enhance your company's image, as well as what they've done to communicate those achievements. Ask them to conduct Google searches to assess the effectiveness of their communication efforts. Inform them that the meeting will reconvene in 20 minutes.

4. After reconvening, ask, "*Who's first?*" Compile the findings on flip charts...

**5. Then accuse them of being money-grubbing, corporate fat-cats, as plaintiffs' attorneys do, and watch the fur fly!**





As Daisy Mae Yokum says, “Your findings may be quite revealing!”

Participants at my firm offered different interpretations of the same data, which led to healthy interaction. That’s the politically-correct way to say...

...it was a “Jerry Springer Show” episode.

All said the same thing when I accused them of being money-grubbing, corporate fat-cats:



When asked how he would respond if a plaintiff’s attorney asks his billing rate, my associate Bubba said, “I would proudly proclaim that I bill out at \$125/hr.”

Members of a jury will think, “Why that money-grubbing, corporate fat-cat makes \$250K/yr.” Being recognized as a “White Knight” in your community may be your only defense, especially after that attorney tries to label you a serial killer.

**Was our training exercise effective?**





So, don't miss the bus. Visit [www.coalcreekaml.com](http://www.coalcreekaml.com) if you want to learn more fun ways to confront risk.







## Urgent Text Messages from Bubba:

- *Sit down and shut your mouth already, so I can return to “work”! (^\_\_--)*
- *Do I have to draw you a picture? Members of a jury are not the only ones who think I make \$250K/yr! (^\_\_--) (^\_\_--)*
- ***SEE ATTACHED PHOTO FROM LAST NIGHT!***
- *Remember, what happens in Boston, stays in Boston!*



# QUESTIONS?

Barry Thacker, P.E.

[barryt@geoe.com](mailto:barryt@geoe.com)

