

THE WILDCATTER
MICHAEL LATE BENEDUM CHAPTER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN



Thank you to the MLBC Education Committee for an outstanding 2026 Appalachian Land Institute!

INSIDE THE ISSUE:
APALLACHIAN LAND INSTITUTE & SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING



INSIDE THE JUNE ISSUE

- 3** LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 4** CORPORATE SPONSORS
- 5** 2026 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS
- 6** APPALACHIAN LAND INSTITUTE
- 8** AWARDS DINNER
- 9** MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: STACY TICHY
- 12** ANNUAL MLBC SPRING CHARITY GOLF OUTING
- 14** AAPL UPDATES
- 15** LEG & REG UPDATE
- 21** THE BASIN BRIEF
- 27** WVU ELM PROGRAM UPDATE
- 28** MLBC 5K & FAMILY FUN RUN
- 30** SUMMER SOCIAL
- 31** IN MEMORIAM: RALPH L. PARSONS
- 32** IN MEMORIAM: STEVEN LOCKARD
- 34** UPCOMING MLBC EVENTS
- 35** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 36** COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- 37** MEMBERSHIP REPORT
- 38** MEMBERSHIP INFO

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MLBC PRESIDENT, KEVIN PIERSON



Greetings MLBC Members! As my term comes to a close, I deliver this final letter to you, a sincere expression that is as genuine as its unprompted imperfections. Serving as your President over the past year has been an absolute privilege and honor. I will forever cherish this experience and the many members I connected with along the way. Ultimately, this chapter stands as a deeply proud milestone in my professional journey as a Landman.

Tides and Strides.

Looking back invites a natural reflection on the planning, preparation, and initiatives set at the start of my term. Early in the year, we successfully advanced our digital presence with the simultaneous launch of a new website platform and a newly redesigned logo. As the official symbol of our Association, this logo is emblematic of key Appalachian monuments, with each element carrying a deeper symbolic meaning directly tied to our mission statement and purpose (*as detailed in the new logo reveal in The Wildcatter, Vol. 7, Issue 1, Feb. 2026*). A deeper dive into the creative process to align these elements truly underscored the duties and responsibilities necessary to uphold these core principles.

Beyond structured goals, however, there was also the unplanned that arose along the way. A famous boxer's allusion paints these unexpected encounters as an abrupt, painful abandonment of the original plan. I genuinely enjoyed every bit of it recognizing opportunities for the betterment of the MLBC. It is this perspective that leads me to a favorite philosophy of mine. As Jon Kabat-Zinn once said, **"You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf."** It is a quote I love to apply to daily life because it forces us to embrace external circumstances, reminds us to find joy in the chaos of the moment, and encourages us to stay the course with profound resilience. Taking on these challenges early was the point break that pumped our momentum forward.

Lined Up.

The energy and strength of our Association swells through members stepping up to serve, which gave me the privilege of appointing over twenty new committee members during my term. The sound sturdiness of a reliable Board and Committees provides the Association with its strength and stability. A heartfelt thank you to the 2025-2026 Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members. There are so many forms of service ranging from an elected officer or committee member to simply being a familiar face in the lineup at your favorite events throughout the year. Consequently, it is this shared dedication in all its forms that solidifies our perpetual strength, creating a pipeline that will carry this Association.

Looking to the horizon, I do so with complete confidence. Incoming President Stacy Tichy and the Board of Directors under her leadership carry the passion, dedication, and strategic vision needed to surge ahead. I look forward to champion their new innovations that drive the MLBC to even greater milestones.

Enjoy the Ride.

In closing, I want to leave you with what I hope is a lasting perspective. As land professionals—whether you are negotiating a major deal, running a complex chain of title, or clearing a well—every effort ultimately leads to an achieved goal. Yet, if the end is the prize, the vast majority of our journey is spent in the middle. Love what you do and live the joy working as a Landman, surfing through the ever-evolving landscape of the Appalachian Basin. Hold your head high when your aspirational finish line is finally crossed, as the true weight of the achievement is often relative to different scales of measurement which may be different from external expectations. For instance, in the surf world, most use the Face Scale, which measures a wave's height from the **front**. Conversely, the traditional Hawaiian Scale measures from the **back**, meaning a wave called at 4 feet is actually an 8-foot wave by another measure, and vice-versa. Ultimately, the significance of any achievement is subjective to the person who rode the wave, but by any scale of measurement, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together this year. I enjoyed the ride and hope to see you at an upcoming MLBC event soon!

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The 2026 Corporate Sponsorship tiers are designed to support both the MLBC organization and the MLBC Foundation. Fifty percent of your contribution will support the MLBC organization, with the remaining fifty percent supporting the MLBC Foundation. By contributing, you're helping to advance energy professionals in our region, strengthen the communities where we work, and support the charities we proudly stand behind. Join us and our mission to support land professionals in our region and make a meaningful, lasting impact in our community.

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- 2 full page ads in The Wildcatter per year
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- \$1,000 Foundation Credit (may be redeemed for event tickets or sponsorship)
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- Logo displayed at all events (virtually or in person)
- 1 half page ad in The Wildcatter per year

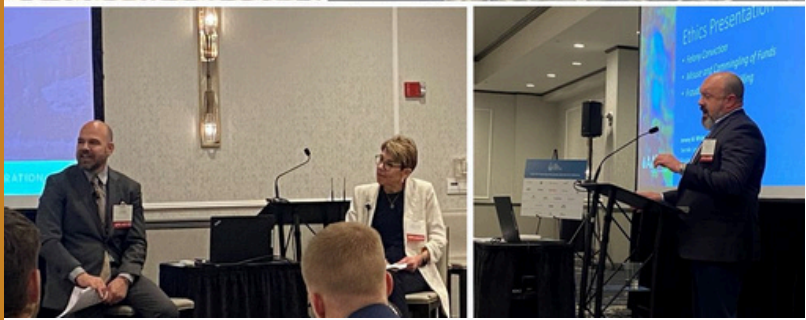
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Appalachian Land Institute Recap

April 2-3 | Hilton Garden Inn | Canonsburg, PA





AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

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Join us to celebrate our Award Recipients and Scholarship Winners

JUNE 11, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Pete Dye Golf Club 801 Aaron Smith Dr, Bridgeport, WV

Cocktail Hour 5-6PM

Dinner 6-7PM

Awards Ceremony 7PM



Contact Us

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Member Spotlight

Stacy Tichy, Incoming 2026-2027 MLBC President



Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Stacy Tichy, and I live in Davisville, West Virginia with my husband, Steven, and our two children, Payson (10) and Lucas (4). Steven and I have been married for over 12 years. Like many families with young children, much of our free time revolves around their activities, but when we do get the chance, we enjoy camping and spending time at the beach together. I am also a big Disney World enthusiast and love visiting with the kids as often as possible, even if my husband does not quite share the same level of excitement.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from PennWest California, where I majored in Jurisprudence with a concentration in Land Management. I graduated in 2020, summa cum laude.

Who are you currently employed or contracted with?

I have been with Percheron, LLC (formerly Mason Dixon Energy) since 2008, where I have served in a various roles. I currently hold the position of Senior Land Project Manager.

How long have you worked in the oil and gas industry? And what states do you have experience? And tell us about any other land organization you belong.

I have worked in the oil and gas industry since 2006. My experience is primarily concentrated in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, with additional work in Ohio, Texas, and North Carolina. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to support a wide range of projects across these regions.

Do you have a mentor in the industry? Can you provide details?

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to learn from a number of experienced professionals who have helped shape my approach to the industry. Mentors such as Aaron Yost, Sabrena McKinney, and Eddie McKinney have been especially influential, although they represent just a few of the many individuals who have contributed to my development.

I have consistently sought guidance from those with strong technical expertise and leadership skills, and their willingness to share insight and provide direction has played a meaningful role in my professional growth. That support has not only shaped how I approach my work but has also inspired me to pay it forward by supporting and mentoring others in the field whenever I can.

Tell us about your first position in the industry.

I began my career in the industry at 17 while I was still in high school, working during the second half of the school day into the early evening. I initially started in a secretarial role, but over time transitioned into a lease analyst position. Looking back, it feels like a different era, as project maps were still being completed by hand with colored pencils, which really highlights how much the industry has evolved. I am very grateful for that first opportunity, as it gave me early exposure to the field and helped me realize that this was a career I wanted to pursue long term.

Continued

Member Spotlight

Stacy Tichy, Incoming 2026-2027 MLBC President

What areas of the industry do you have experience in?

I have extensive experience in title, leasing, and curative work. Over the years, I have been involved in managing projects from initial title through lease acquisition and into resolving complex title issues, which has given me a comprehensive understanding of the land process.

How long have you been a member of the MLBC. Do you currently have any certifications through the AAPL?

I have been a member of the MLBC since 2008. I currently hold a Certified Professional Landman (CPL) designation through the American Association of Professional Landmen, which I obtained in 2025.

What benefits have you found as a member of the MLBC? What are your favorite aspects?

There are many benefits to being a member of the MLBC. Over the years, I have gained valuable knowledge through luncheons, dinner meetings, and seminars that have helped me stay current in the industry. Equally important has been the opportunity to build strong professional relationships through networking. The organization provides a great balance of welcoming new members while also maintaining connections with familiar faces, which creates a strong sense of community.

Do you serve the MLBC, AAPL, or any other organizations in an executive capacity and/or serve as a committee chair? Are you a member of any committees?

I am currently the incoming MLBC President for the 2026 to 2027 term. Over the years, I have held several board positions, including Vice President (current), Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Local Director. I previously served as Chair of the Planning Committee until it was dissolved, and I currently serve as Chair of the Marketing Committee.



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW OPEN



For over 7 decades, AAPL has advanced the interests of all land professionals through advocacy, education, publications, certification, networking events and so much more. Learn more about our recent happenings and what's to come in the 2026-27 membership year with this [membership letter](#) from AAPL leaders Kyle Reynolds, CPL, President; Julie Woodard, CPL, First Vice President; Mark DeVrient, RPL, Membership Committee Chair; and Le'Ann Callihan, EVP & COO of AAPL/NAPE.

Renewals for AAPL's 2026-27 membership year are now open! The industry needs skilled energy professionals like you, and AAPL is here to lead through the challenges ahead. We hope you continue to help us power the profession by [renewing your membership today](#) and enjoying your career-building benefits through June 2027. Those who renew before June 12 are eligible to receive a free copy of the 2026-27 Membership Directory.

[LOGIN & RENEW](#)

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LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

By Nikolas Tysiak, Legislative and Regulatory Chairman



WEST VIRGINIA

Wells v. Antero Resources Corporation

Citation: 2026 WL 1030635 (W. Va. Apr. 7, 2026) (Memorandum Decision)

Court: Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

This case involves ownership of mineral interests and recorded oil and gas leases affecting a tract of West Virginia real property. The Supreme Court of Appeals addressed whether surface and mineral interests in the property had merged (i.e., reunited in a single owner), and whether subsequent conveyances of the property referencing only the source deed for the surface effectively reserved or excepted the separately acquired the oil and gas interest in the same tract. The parties did not dispute that the surface and mineral interests had merged in one prior owner (Nile Wells), and the court's analysis focused on the effect of subsequent conveyances and reservations on the mineral estate. The decision reaffirms the general principle that when surface and mineral interests merge in a common owner, subsequent conveyances may again sever the estates depending on the language of the deed and any reservations therein, and that a re-severance can only occur when proper language of severance is utilized after the merger. The court held that there was no language in the deed that effectively reserved the merged oil and gas interest, so Wells retained no oil and gas interest.

Statoil USA Onshore Properties Inc. v. Irby

Citation: 2026 WL 1194787 (W. Va. May 1, 2026)

Court: Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

This published decision from the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals addresses the definition of "gross proceeds" from the sale of natural gas for severance tax purposes under W. Va. Code §§ 11-13A-2 and 11-13A-3a. The producer (Equinor/Statoil) transferred title to raw natural gas liquids to processor MarkWest Liberty at the inlet to MarkWest's processing plant pursuant to a series of contracts. The court held that the net value listed in MarkWest's settlement statement, representing the value actually received by the producer in the only sale to which the producer was a party, best represented "gross proceeds" of the sale of the producer's natural gas for severance tax purposes. The court also upheld the producer's entitlement to a 15% safe harbor deduction for transportation, transmission, and processing costs, and held the petition for reassessment was timely filed. While primarily a tax case, the decision has direct implications for oil and gas title and ownership because it turns on the critical question of when and where title to natural gas and natural gas liquids passes from producer to processor, which determines who legally "owns" the gas at the moment of its severance and sale.

Continued

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

PENNSYLVANIA

In re Estate of McCord

Citation: 2026 WL 880514 (Pa. Super. Ct. Mar. 31, 2026)

Court: Superior Court of Pennsylvania

This estate administration case from the Pennsylvania Superior Court involves the proper administration of a decedent's estate that included, among its assets, an undivided 24.3% interest in approximately 220 acres of oil, gas, and other hydrocarbons producing in paying quantities under an active oil and gas lease. The court reviewed an Orphans' Court order governing the administration of the estate, including negotiations to sell the estate's undivided one-third right, title, and interest in certain real property. The case illustrates the procedural and substantive framework Pennsylvania courts apply when administering estates that contain active oil and gas interests, including the administratrix's authority to negotiate and execute transactions involving fractional interests in oil and gas-producing lands, and the fiduciary obligations owed to heirs and beneficiaries during such transactions.

Scott v. Department of Environmental Protection

Citation: 2026 WL 899947 (Pa. Commw. Ct. Apr. 2, 2026)

In this published decision, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court addressed whether the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) decision to grant drilling permits for five oil and gas wells to be drilled through property owners' coal seams, without the coal owners' consent, constituted a regulatory taking of the coal owners' property interests. The Environmental Hearing Board had upheld DEP's decision, and the Commonwealth Court affirmed. The court held that DEP's permitting action did not deprive the property owners of all economically beneficial use of their property as would support a categorical regulatory taking under the Fifth Amendment and Article I, Section 10 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Critical to the court's reasoning was the fact that the subject property was already subject to an existing oil and gas lease at the time the owners purchased it, that oil and gas development on the property provided economic benefit to the owners, and that it was reasonably foreseeable that such development might limit other uses. The decision directly addresses competing property rights in a severed mineral estate — specifically the relationship between coal ownership and overlying oil and gas drilling rights.

Patterson v. Turchin

Citation: 2026 WL 948692 (Pa. Super. Ct. Apr. 8, 2026)

This case addresses a real estate title dispute arising from the death of a prior property owner (one "Tingle") in 1995 for whose estate no estate proceedings were opened until 2024 (nearly three decades later). A subsequent owner (D'Angelo) sold the property to the Turchins in 2016, with a seller's disclosure showing no known title defects. Title insurance was obtained from Old Republic National Title Insurance Company, and the title search revealed no defect. The case raises issues regarding the validity of title conveyances where a predecessor in title died intestate and no estate was ever opened to effect a legally proper transfer of real property.

Continued

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

The Pennsylvania Superior Court's analysis addressed the rights of a current titled owner who purchased the property with title insurance versus a claimant asserting interests through a long-dormant estate of a deceased former owner. The case underscores the risks of gap periods in title chains created by unadministered estates, a recurring issue in rural Pennsylvania real estate including oil and gas lands.

OHIO

Faith Ranch & Farms Fund, Inc. v. PNC Bank, National Association

Citation: 2026-Ohio-1145 (Ohio Apr. 2, 2026)

In this significant published decision from the Ohio Supreme Court, the court addressed the interpretation of a deed's reservation clause stating "coal and other minerals, with the right to mine and remove such coal or other minerals of any vein." The heirs of the original grantor claimed that "other minerals" encompassed oil and gas, while the surface owner (Faith Ranch) argued oil and gas were excluded. The Supreme Court of Ohio held that while the phrase "other minerals" may include oil and gas under Ohio law (citing the court's seminal holdings in *Kelly v. Ohio Oil Co.* (1897) and *Detlor v. Holland* (1898)) whether it does so depends on the context in which the phrase is used in the particular deed. Applying this contextual approach, the court held that the language "with the right to mine and remove" in the reservation clause signaled that the grantor intended to reserve only solid, extractable minerals (like coal), not fugacious substances like oil and gas. This decision provides critical guidance for interpreting ambiguous mineral reservation clauses in Ohio deeds that may affect the ownership of oil and gas interests.

Chestnut Ridge 156 LLC v. Miller

Citation: 2026-Ohio-1018 (Ohio Ct. App., 7th Dist., Jefferson Cnty. Mar. 24, 2026)

Chestnut Ridge 156 LLC ("Chestnut Ridge") brought an action to quiet title and for declaratory judgment against several defendants, including Malone University, Mentor United Methodist Church, Gulfport Appalachia, LLC, and heirs to mineral interests. The case involved the ownership of mineral rights under a 28.5271-acre property in Jefferson County, Ohio. The dispute centered on whether the mineral interests were extinguished under the Ohio Marketable Title Act (MTA). The property had a complex history of conveyances, with the mineral rights being severed in 1946 and subsequently transferred through various deeds. The key issue was whether the mineral interests were preserved or extinguished under the MTA. Key Issues: Marketable Title Act (O.R.C. § 5301.48); oil and gas lease title; root of title; extinguishment of prior mineral interests; chain of title examination. The appellate court held that the trial court erred by not continuing to review all potential root of title deeds up to the severance deed. The trial court's decision was reversed and remanded for further proceedings consistent with the appellate court's opinion. The appellate court reasoned that under the MTA, a court must continue to review every potential root of title deed within a chain of title up to the severance deed to determine if an interest in mineral rights was extinguished. The court emphasized that stopping the analysis after finding a savings act in the most recent deed could improperly revive an extinguished interest, contrary to the MTA's purpose.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

The court cited precedent from both the Ohio Supreme Court and its own prior decisions, which established that multiple deeds could affect the marketability of a mineral interest and that the analysis must continue until a deed is found that does not have a preservation act within a forty-year period. The judgment of the trial court was reversed, and the case was remanded for further proceedings consistent with the appellate court's opinion. The appellate court instructed the trial court to conduct a full analysis of all potential root of title deeds up to the severance deed.

Whitney v. Baker

Citation: 2026-Ohio-1035 (Ohio Ct. App., 7th Dist., Monroe Cnty. Mar. 25, 2026)

The case involves a dispute over mineral rights related to approximately forty acres of land in Adams Township, Monroe County, Ohio. The original deed from 1964 reserved a one-half interest in the royalties from oil and gas for the grantors, Clarence L. and Marie E. Boughnor. This interest, known as the Boughnor Interest, was referenced in subsequent deeds. The Appellant, Jennifer L. Whitney, as the successor trustee of the George William aka "Duke" Landis Revocable Trust, sought a determination of ownership under the Ohio Marketable Title Act (MTA) and the Ohio Dormant Mineral Act (DMA). The trial court found that the mineral interest was extinguished by the MTA, making a DMA analysis unnecessary. The Appellant also argued as a third-party beneficiary. The appellate court held that the Appellant's MTA argument had merit, as the root of title deed and every deed in the chain of title contained a specific reference to the Boughnor Interest.

The Appellees conceded judgment in favor of the Appellant under the DMA. The case was remanded for determining the payment of royalties owed to the Appellant. **MTA Analysis:** The court found that the language in the deeds contained a specific reference to the Boughnor Interest, as it was a near verbatim recitation of the original reservation and included a citation to the volume and page number of the severance deed. This satisfied the requirements under the MTA to preserve the interest. **DMA Analysis:** The Appellees failed to conduct a reasonable search for potential heirs before declaring the Boughnor Interest abandoned, as required by Ohio law. The Appellees conceded this point. **Royalties:** The issue of royalties was not litigated in the trial court due to the improper grant of summary judgment. There are unresolved material facts regarding the amount and responsibility for payment of royalties. The appellate court reversed the trial court's decision and remanded the case with instructions to grant summary judgment in favor of the Appellant on the MTA and DMA issues. The trial court was also instructed to determine the amount of royalties owed and the responsible party for payment.

Bednarz v. Henderson Family Enterprises, Ltd.

Citation: 2026-Ohio-1297 (Ohio Ct. App., 7th Dist., Harrison Cnty. Apr. 9, 2026)

The case involves a dispute over the ownership of oil and gas rights underlying 160 acres in Harrison County, Ohio. The plaintiffs, heirs and assignees of John W. Means, filed a complaint against Henderson Family Enterprises, Ltd., Stuart Henderson, Jr., and several Encino defendants, alleging wrongful claims of ownership of mineral interests by the Hendersons. The Hendersons attempted to abandon the mineral interests under Ohio's Dormant Mineral Act (DMA) by filing affidavits of abandonment in 2011 and 2012, claiming the mineral rights were vested in Stuart Henderson, Jr., Trustee of the Henderson Family Revocable Trust. The plaintiffs argued that the Hendersons failed to use reasonable diligence in identifying the mineral rights holders before resorting to notice by publication.

Continued

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

The Hendersons did not exercise reasonable diligence in their search for the mineral rights holders, as they failed to search public records in Stark County, Ohio, where better addresses for the holders were available. The plaintiffs had standing to challenge the abandonment because the abandonment was ineffective, and thus, the subsequent acquisition of interests by Wolf Run and others was valid. The trial court did not err in granting summary judgment against a deceased party and an incorrectly named party, as the action continued against surviving defendants, and Stuart Henderson, Jr. acted in a representative capacity as trustee. The claims were not barred by the statute of limitations or laches, as mineral interests are real property, and the personal property statute of limitations was inapplicable.

The trial court did not err in granting summary judgment in favor of Means and Doxzen, as they were named as necessary parties with a potential interest in the litigation. The court found that the Hendersons failed to use reasonable diligence by not searching Stark County records, which would have revealed better addresses for the mineral rights holders. The court held that the plaintiffs had standing because the abandonment was ineffective, and thus, the interests acquired by Wolf Run and others were valid. The court determined that the action continued against surviving defendants, and Stuart Henderson, Jr.'s role as trustee meant his death did not substantively affect the proceedings. The court concluded that the claims were not barred by the statute of limitations or laches, as the mineral interests were real property, and the personal property statute of limitations did not apply. The court found that Means and Doxzen were properly included as necessary parties, allowing the trial court to determine their rights to the mineral interests.

NC Enterprises, L.L.C. v. Norfolk & Western Railway Company

Citation: 2026-Ohio-1429 (Ohio Apr. 24, 2026)

NC Enterprises, L.L.C. claimed adverse possession over two parcels of land owned by Norfolk Southern Railway Company, which are long and narrow and abut NC Enterprises' property. NC Enterprises began landscape maintenance on these parcels shortly after purchasing its property in December 1997, continuing through 2021. In September 2000, NC Enterprises erected a fence, and in 2003, a chain-link fence with barbed wire was installed. Drainage pipes were added in 2011. Norfolk Railway paid property taxes on the parcels throughout the period and listed them for sale at various times. NC Enterprises formally asserted an adverse possession claim in July 2020, which Norfolk Railway refuted. The Supreme Court of Ohio held that NC Enterprises did not engage in open-and-notorious acts on the parcels for the required 21-year period to establish adverse possession. Lawn maintenance alone is not sufficiently open and notorious to establish adverse possession.

The court emphasized that adverse possession requires open, notorious, continuous, and adverse use for 21 years. The court found that NC Enterprises' landscape maintenance was not sufficiently open and notorious to notify Norfolk Railway of adverse possession before the fence was erected in September 2000. The court rejected the notion that ordinary lawn-maintenance activities could satisfy the open-and-notorious requirement. The Supreme Court of Ohio reversed the judgment of the Ninth District Court of Appeals and remanded the case to the trial court with instructions to grant Norfolk Railway's motion for summary judgment on the adverse possession claim and to consider the unjust enrichment claim. This case highlights the stringent requirements for establishing adverse possession, particularly the necessity for open and notorious use that clearly signals to the title owner an adverse claim to the property.

Continued

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

State ex rel. H&S Investment Properties, L.L.C. v. Yamamoto

Citation: 2026-Ohio-1505 (Ohio Ct. App., 11th Dist., Ashtabula Cnty. Apr. 27, 2026)

H&S Investment Properties, LLC, formerly known as Damon Harris Properties, LLC, is the fee-simple owner of a property in Ashtabula County, Ohio. The company changed its legal name and recorded an Affidavit of Fact Relating to Title to reflect this change. Despite this, the Ashtabula County Auditor, Scott Yamamoto, refused to update the tax list to reflect the new name, causing alleged harm to H&S Investment Properties.

H&S Investment Properties does not have a clear legal right under R.C. 5301.252 to have the tax lists reflect its correct legal name. The auditor does not have a clear legal duty under R.C. 319.28 to maintain tax lists reflecting the true owner of record as shown by duly recorded instruments. The court found that R.C. 5301.252 allows for the recording of affidavits that may affect the title to real estate but does not establish a name's correctness for tax list purposes. R.C. 319.28 requires the auditor to compile and correct tax lists annually but does not mandate maintaining them to reflect the true owner of record as shown by recorded instruments. The court emphasized that neither statute mandates the procedure sought by H&S Investment Properties, and thus, no clear legal right or duty exists. The court granted the auditor's motion to dismiss the petition for a writ of mandamus and overruled the motion for summary judgment as moot. This analysis captures the essential elements of the case, focusing on the legal reasoning and the court's interpretation of the relevant statutes.

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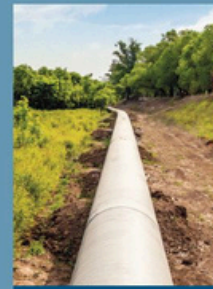
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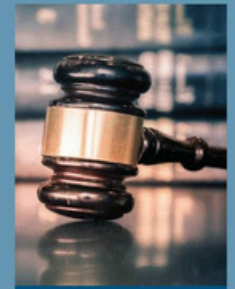
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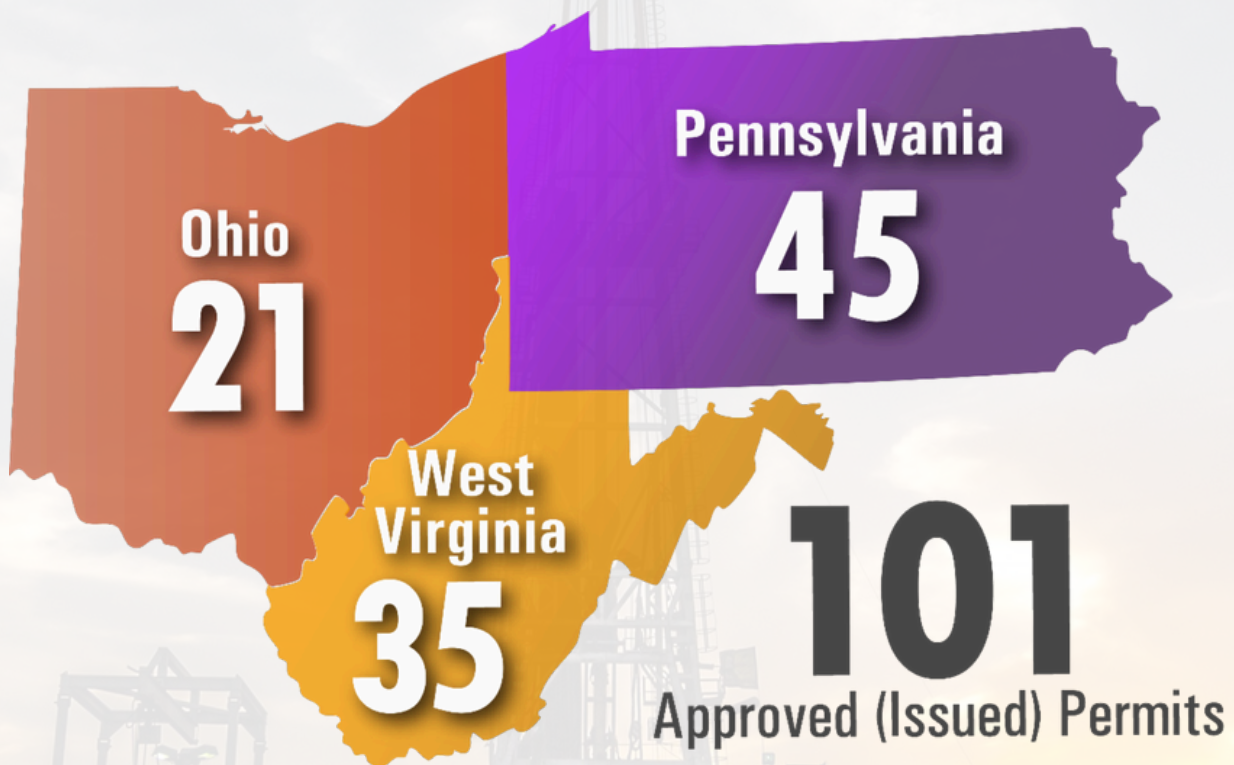
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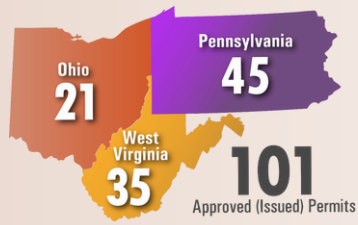
Where Trust and Value Meet.



BASIN BRIEF



BASIN ACTIVITY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AYERS PETROLEUM CONSULTING AND IS CURRENT OF JUNE 2026.



BASIN BRIEF

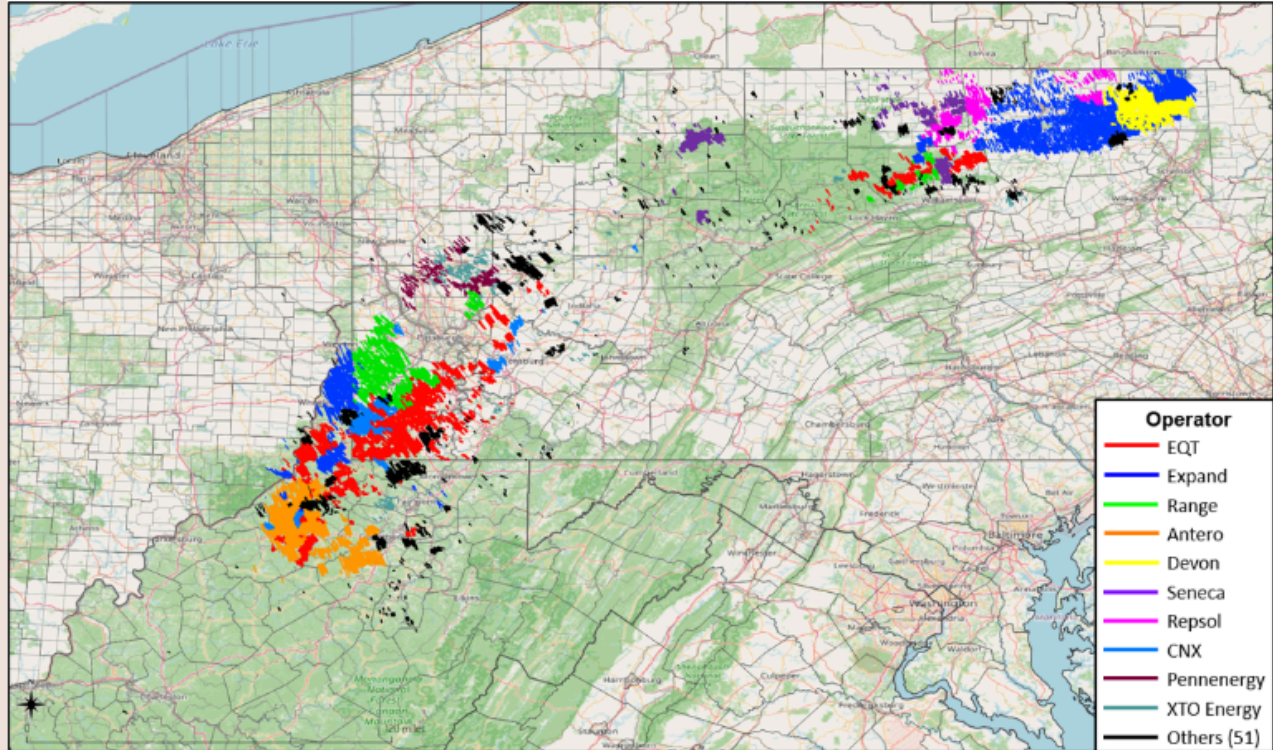
PERMIT DETAILS

NO.	API	COUNTY	OPERATOR	PERMIT DATE	RESERVOIR
1	34-081-21036-0000	Jefferson	Ascent	4/7/2026	Utica
2	34-081-21037-0000	Jefferson	Ascent	4/7/2026	Utica
3	34-081-21038-0000	Jefferson	Ascent	4/7/2026	Utica
4	34-019-22966-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/8/2026	Utica
5	34-019-22967-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/8/2026	Utica
6	34-019-22970-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/8/2026	Utica
7	34-019-22968-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/9/2026	Utica
8	34-019-22969-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/9/2026	Utica
9	34-013-21671-0000	Belmont	Ascent	4/21/2026	Utica
10	34-013-21672-0000	Belmont	Ascent	4/21/2026	Utica
11	34-013-21673-0000	Belmont	Ascent	4/21/2026	Utica
12	34-013-21674-0000	Belmont	Ascent	4/21/2026	Utica
13	34-019-22971-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/27/2026	Utica
14	34-019-22972-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/27/2026	Utica
15	34-013-21675-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	4/28/2026	Utica
16	34-013-21676-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	4/28/2026	Utica
17	34-019-22973-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/28/2026	Utica
18	34-019-22974-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/28/2026	Utica
19	34-019-22975-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/28/2026	Utica
20	34-019-22976-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	4/28/2026	Utica
21	34-013-21677-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	4/30/2026	Utica
22	37-019-23033	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/2/2026	Marcellus
23	37-019-23032	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/2/2026	Marcellus
24	37-015-24027	Bradford	Blackhill Energy	4/6/2026	Marcellus
25	37-015-24026	Bradford	Blackhill Energy	4/6/2026	Marcellus
26	37-015-24025	Bradford	Blackhill Energy	4/6/2026	Marcellus
27	37-015-24024	Bradford	Blackhill Energy	4/6/2026	Marcellus
28	37-019-23031	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
29	37-019-23034	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
30	37-019-23035	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
31	37-019-23036	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
32	37-019-23037	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
33	37-019-23038	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
34	37-019-23039	Butler	Laurel Mountain	4/6/2026	Marcellus
35	37-117-22332	Tioga	Clean Energy	4/7/2026	Marcellus
36	37-015-24028	Bradford	Repsol	4/8/2026	Marcellus
37	37-015-24029	Bradford	Repsol	4/8/2026	Marcellus
38	37-015-24030	Bradford	Repsol	4/8/2026	Marcellus
39	37-015-24031	Bradford	Repsol	4/8/2026	Marcellus
40	37-015-24032	Bradford	Repsol	4/8/2026	Marcellus
41	37-019-23027	Butler	Pennenergy	4/9/2026	Marcellus
42	37-005-31561	Armstrong	Snyder Bros	4/9/2026	Marcellus
43	37-005-31563	Armstrong	Snyder Bros	4/9/2026	Marcellus
44	37-005-31564	Armstrong	Snyder Bros	4/9/2026	Marcellus
45	37-117-22333	Tioga	JKLM Energy	4/10/2026	Marcellus
46	37-117-22338	Tioga	Repsol	4/14/2026	Marcellus
47	37-117-22337	Tioga	Repsol	4/14/2026	Marcellus
48	37-117-22336	Tioga	Repsol	4/14/2026	Marcellus
49	37-117-22335	Tioga	Repsol	4/14/2026	Marcellus
50	37-117-22334	Tioga	JKLM Energy	4/14/2026	Utica

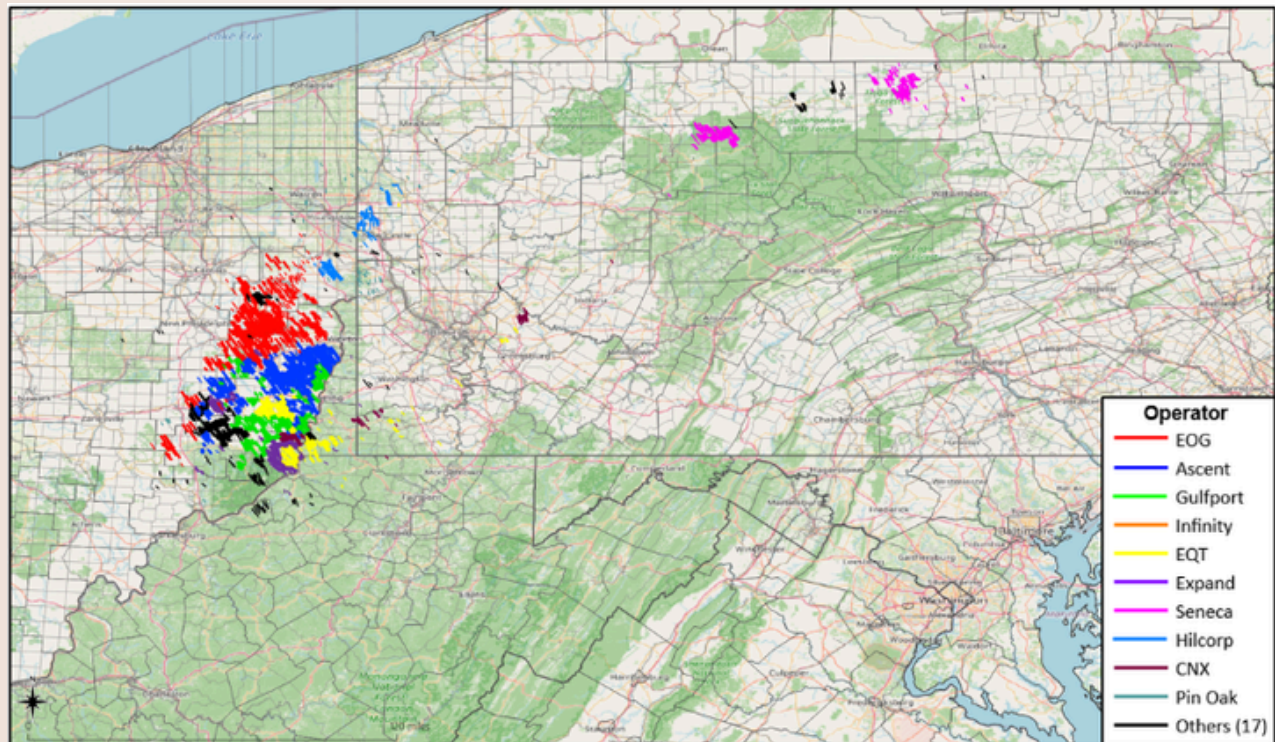
51	37-125-29280	Washington	Range Resources	4/16/2026	Marcellus
52	37-015-24038	Bradford	Expand Energy	4/20/2026	Marcellus
53	37-015-24041	Bradford	Expand Energy	4/20/2026	Marcellus
54	37-015-24040	Bradford	Expand Energy	4/20/2026	Marcellus
55	37-015-24039	Bradford	Expand Energy	4/20/2026	Marcellus
56	37-005-31562	Armstrong	Snyder Bros	4/21/2026	Marcellus
57	37-019-23040	Butler	Pennenergy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
58	37-019-23041	Butler	Pennenergy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
59	37-019-23042	Butler	Pennenergy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
60	37-019-23043	Butler	Pennenergy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
61	37-019-23044	Butler	Pennenergy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
62	37-015-24036	Bradford	Expand Energy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
63	37-015-24037	Bradford	Expand Energy	4/22/2026	Marcellus
64	37-125-29284	Washington	Range Resources	4/27/2026	Marcellus
65	37-125-29283	Washington	Range Resources	4/27/2026	Marcellus
66	37-125-29282	Washington	Range Resources	4/27/2026	Marcellus
67	47-049-02585	Marion	Northeast Natural	4/2/2026	Marcellus
68	47-049-02588	Marion	Northeast Natural	4/2/2026	Marcellus
69	47-049-02589	Marion	Northeast Natural	4/2/2026	Marcellus
70	47-103-03838	Wetzel	Antero	4/6/2026	Marcellus
71	47-103-03839	Wetzel	Antero	4/6/2026	Marcellus
72	47-103-03840	Wetzel	Antero	4/6/2026	Marcellus
73	47-103-03841	Wetzel	Antero	4/6/2026	Marcellus
74	47-103-03842	Wetzel	Antero	4/6/2026	Marcellus
75	47-103-03843	Wetzel	Antero	4/6/2026	Marcellus
76	47-017-07003	Doddridge	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
77	47-033-06049	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
78	47-033-06089	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
79	47-033-06097	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
80	47-033-06098	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
81	47-033-06099	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
82	47-033-06100	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
83	47-033-06101	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
84	47-033-06102	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
85	47-033-06103	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
86	47-033-06104	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
87	47-033-06105	Harrison	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
88	47-041-05773	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
89	47-041-05780	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
90	47-041-05781	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
91	47-041-05782	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
92	47-041-05783	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
93	47-041-05784	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
94	47-041-05785	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
95	47-041-05786	Lewis	Antero	4/7/2026	Marcellus
96	47-001-03366	Barbour	Arsenal	4/13/2026	Marcellus
97	47-061-02024	Monongalia	CNX	4/14/2026	Marcellus
98	47-061-02025	Monongalia	CNX	4/14/2026	Marcellus
99	47-061-02026	Monongalia	CNX	4/14/2026	Marcellus
100	47-061-02027	Monongalia	CNX	4/14/2026	Marcellus
101	47-061-02030	Monongalia	CNX	4/28/2026	Marcellus

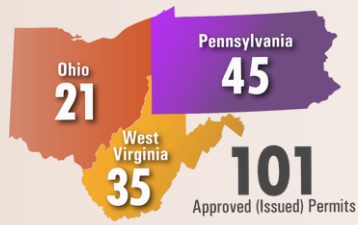
BASIN BRIEF

MARCELLUS WELLS BY STATUS



UTICA WELLS BY STATUS





BASIN BRIEF

PERMITTING SUMMARY BY STATE

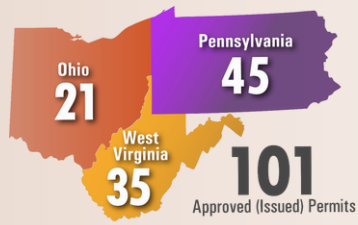
STATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	APR 2025
OH	11	25	13	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
PA	29	38	36	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
WV	8	16	12	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
TOTAL	48	79	61	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113

PERMITTING SUMMARY BY OPERATOR

OPERATOR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Antero	8	8	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
EQT	1	13	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
Expand Energy	7	5	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Ascent	4	9	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Pennenergy	-	11	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Repsol	6	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Gulfport	5	4	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Coterra	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Infinity Natural Resources	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Arsenal	-	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Others (8)	5	11	30	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89
TOTAL	48	79	61	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	289

HORIZONTAL WELLS BY RESERVOIR BY STATUS

STATUS	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
PERM	187	311	300	798
SPUD	46	618	4	668
DUC	35	60	17	112
COMP	32	57	25	114
PROD	3,775	12,277	4,190	20,242
SI	57	310	24	391
TOTAL	4,132	13,633	4,560	22,235



BASIN BRIEF

PRODUCING WELL COUNT BY RESERVOIR

RESERVOIR	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
Marcellus	51	11,529	4,032	15,612
Utica	3,724	447	126	4,297
Burket	-	301	32	333
TOTAL	3,775	12,277	4,190	20,242

PRODUCING MARCELLUS WELLS

OPERATOR	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
EQT	9	2,233	997	3,239
Expand Energy	30	2,455	702	3,187
Range Resources	-	1,618	-	1,618
Antero	-	-	1,439	1,439
Devon Energy	-	1,097	-	1,097
Seneca	-	834	-	834
Repsol	-	782	-	782
CNX	1	494	93	588
Pennenergy	-	360	-	360
XTO Energy	-	268	54	322
Others (51)	11	1,388	747	2,146
TOTAL	51	11,529	4,032	15,612

PRODUCING UTICA WELLS

OPERATOR	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
EOG Resources	1,251	-	-	1,251
Ascent	987	-	-	987
Gulfport	489	-	-	489
Infinity	371	-	-	371
EQT	189	22	88	299
Expand Energy	219	2	5	226
Seneca	-	200	-	200
Hilcorp	95	97	-	192
CNX	45	33	5	83
Pin Oak Energy	17	33	-	50
Others (17)	61	60	28	149
TOTAL	3,724	447	126	4,297

DUDLEY

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WVU ELM PROGRAM UPDATE



By: Shawn Grushecky, Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Energy Land Management

2026 WVU Energy Land Management Graduating Class Achieves 100% Placement Success Again!

The energy workforce is experiencing a direct influx of new talent as West Virginia University's Energy Land Management (ELM) program graduates a class of 22 students. According to recent metrics, the class achieved a 100% job placement rate, with every single graduate either securing a position or receiving multiple job offers prior to graduation.

A data snapshot details the starting compensation and market distribution for these 22 upcoming industry professionals:

- **Sector Breakdown:** Traditional energy remains the primary destination, with 77% (17 graduates) securing roles tied directly to Oil & Gas. The remaining graduates successfully branched into supporting industries, including Right of Way (ROW), Utilities, Renewables, and Real Estate.
- **Starting Compensation:** The baseline entry-level salaries for the class reflect strong market demand. Over 63% (14 graduates) accepted starting packages in the \$60,000–\$70,000 range. An additional four graduates commanded higher packages between \$70,000 and \$90,000, while the top earner in the class reached the \$90,000–\$100,000 tier. Some positions were structured with bonus and/or sales style commissions.
- **Mobility:** Roughly 32% (7 graduates) accepted positions that will require geographic relocation, highlighting a high level of workforce flexibility.

A Sincere Thank You to the MLBC

This exceptional milestone is a testament to the powerful, long-standing partnership between West Virginia University and the regional energy community. The WVU ELM program extends its sincere thanks to all members of the Michael Late Benedum Chapter (MLBC) of the AAPL.

Whether through corporate sponsorships, active mentorship, or directly hiring these students into your organizations, the continuous support from MLBC professionals is what drives this program's 100% success rate. Thank you for investing in the next generation of land professionals and ensuring a robust pipeline of talent for the Appalachian Basin!



2026 MLBC 5K & FAMILY FUN RUN

MAY 1, 2026 | MORGANTOWN, WV



2026 MLBC 5K AND FAMILY FUN RUN RAISES OVER \$1,700!

Runners and walkers were able to dodge rain showers on the evening of May 2 to participate in the 2nd Annual MLBC 5K and Family Fun. Thanks to the over 40 participants and event sponsors (Premier Sponsors: Northeast Natural Energy; Gold Sponsors: Purple Land Management and Triple H; and Silver Sponsors: Infinity Natural Resources and Blue Land Services), the MLBC raised over \$1,700 for the MLBC Foundation's Scholarship Program!

Though the evening was filled with scattered rain showers, the sun burst out just as the race began, and racers and walkers were treated with a break from showers and winds long enough for a run and stroll along the Mon River Rail-Trail in Morgantown, West Virginia. After the race, participants then enjoyed socializing with food and beverages at Table 9.

The overall race winners were Richard Taliaferro and Mia Travis. They weren't the only winners that evening, though. All the participants, volunteers, and sponsors who helped to make this event happen are also winners in our book because there's no better winning feeling than that of a community and organization coming together for such a worthy cause.

Again, thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success, and we hope that we have even more participation and sponsorship next year!

Sincerely,
John Conrad





MLBC'S THIRD ANNUAL PNC PARK SOCIAL

Register Now



VS



**THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026
12:35 PM FIRST PITCH**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT WWW.MLBC-AAPL.ORG

THIS EVENT ALWAYS SELLS OUT SO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT



In Memoriam
Ralph L. Parsons

JUNE 23, 1949 — MAY 13, 2026

Ralph Lewis Parsons, resident of Ripley, WV passed away May 13th, 2026, at the Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston, WV after a courageous 18-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Ralph was born June 23rd, 1949, in Charleston, WV to the late Morley and Pauline Parsons. He was a 1967 graduate of Ripley High School and a 1972 graduate of West Virginia University. Ralph spent the majority of his career as a landman in the oil and gas business, retiring from EQT in 2019. Ralph was widely known for his interest in cars, particularly corvettes. He had over 150 cars in his lifetime with over 40 of those being his beloved Corvettes.

Ralph restored many cars, remodeled several houses and because of his abilities, he was always willing to offer his handyman skills to anyone in need.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 45 plus years, Jennifer Lynn (Pierce) Parsons, his daughter Taran Amanda Wolford, along with her husband, Jamion, and their two children, Ralph's precious granddaughters, Ashlyn and Sophia Wolford. Ralph is also survived by his sister, Janet Ball of Atlanta and her two daughters, Julie of Texas and Carrie of Atlanta and his father-in-law, Dan Pierce of Williamstown, WV. Ralph shared great relationships and was loved by his two brothers-in-law, John Ball of Atlanta and John Pierce of High Point, NC. Along with his nieces Julie and Carrie, his niece Jayne Pierce, John and Susan's Pierce's daughter of High Point, NC.

Ralph was preceded in death by both his parents, his grandson, Sawyer Andrew Wolford, his brother-in-law, John Ball and his mother-in-law, Mary Pierce.

Ralph spent almost his entire life in Ripley other than his time in college while working road construction in the summers and after college. He lived in Clarksburg, WV for a number of years as well working in the oil and gas business. Ralph was fortunate enough to spend the majority of his life in Ripley; he shared many lifelong friends throughout the years and continued these relationships right up until his passing. Ralph attended and was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church his entire life and played an active role with the church's food pantry and other local organizations. He was a lifelong fan of the West Virginia Mountaineers and the Ripley Vikings. Ralph had such a positive attitude and was loved very much by both his family and friends.

You can find his full obituary [here](#).



In Memoriam Steven Lockard

AUGUST 8, 1953 - MAY 15, 2026

Steven Roy Lockard, 72, passed away on May 15, 2026. Currently residing in Wendell, North Carolina, Steve was formerly a long-time resident of Weston, West Virginia.

He was born in 1953 in Upshur County, West Virginia, a beloved son of the late Roy G. "Chick" Lockard and Madge R. (Greene) Lockard. Steve was also preceded in death by his brother, James E. Lockard.

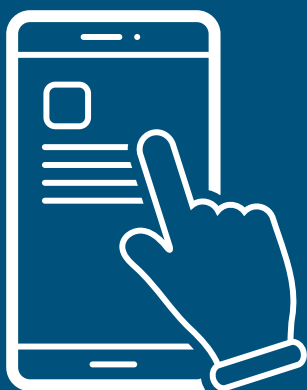
On June 14, 1975, Steve wed the love of his life, C. Louise (Blair) Lockard, with whom he shared nearly 51 years of devoted marriage.

He was a 1972 graduate of Lewis County High School and went on to earn two associate degrees from Glenville State College in 1974 and 1975. Steve had a distinguished, lifelong career in both energy and engineering industries. He retired from Dominion Energy and CNX in March 2018. He was a proud member of the Michael Late Benedum Chapter of the American Association of Professional Landmen. Deeply committed to serving his community, Steve was also a former member of the Pricetown Volunteer Fire Department and a Charter Member of the Pricetown Lions Club.

An avid outdoorsman, Steve had a passion for craftsmanship and spent time restoring antique furniture and family heirlooms. He was a very social man who never met a stranger; he genuinely loved chatting with others and was always the first to lend a helping hand. He frequently shared stories about growing up on his family farm in Pricetown. In his downtime, he could often be found enjoying his favorite sci-fi shows and westerns. Above all, Steve was dedicated to his family. He was extremely proud of each family member's accomplishments and loved nothing more than bragging about them to others.

Steve's legacy lives on through his surviving family, including his step-mother, Janet K. Lockard, and his step-brother, Nicolle "Nick" Bakas. He was the proud father of two children: Michael Steven Lockard and wife, Darla, of Walkersville, WV, and Sadie Rochelle (Lockard) Hoover and husband, Max, of Wendell, NC. Steve was the grandfather of nine grandchildren: Kyra Toms and husband, Trenton, Ethan Lockard, Levi Lockard, Wade Hoover, Caleb Williams and wife, Alison, Isaac McCray, Haylie Gordon, Jakkson Lockard, and Garrett Lockard; and was blessed with four great-grandchildren: Finnly and Evie Toms, and Maverick and Waylon Williams. He is also survived by three nieces: Kelley Orvik, Lee Ann Lockard, and Ashley (Bakas) Magers and their families.

You can find his full obituary [here](#).



STAY CONNECTED!

Follow us on our social media channels for news & updates!



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Benedum Chapter
of AAPL



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Michael Late Benedum Chapter
American Association of Professional Landmen

www.mlbc-aapl.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUN
11**5:00PM-
9:00 PM*Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner
Pete Dye Golf Club, Bridgeport, WV***JULY
9**

12:35 PM

*Annual MLBC Pirates Game
Pirates vs Braves
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA***AUG
17**10:00 AM-
4PM*Fall Charity Golf Event
Bridgeport Country Club,
Bridgeport, WV***SEPT
17**12PM-
2PM*Educational Lunch
New Albany, OH***SEPT
24**9AM-
3PM*Fall Charity Clay Shoot
Hunting Hills Shooting Preserve
Dilliner, PA*



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT



Kevin Pierson
Blue Duck Resources
kp@blueduckres.com

VICE PRESIDENT



Stacy Tichy, CPL
Percheron, LLC
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com

SECRETARY



Ben McKinney
Step toe and Johnson
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OGM Partners LLC
daniel@ogmpllc.com

SGT. AT ARMS



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LOCAL DIRECTOR



Matt White
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LOCAL DIRECTOR



Bill O'Brien
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Bill.O'Brien@step toe-johnson.com

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OGM Partners LLC
rob@ogmpllc.com

PRESIDENT EMERITUS



John Catsonis
Apex Land Corp.
jcatsonis@apexlandcorp.com



2025-2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

TECHNOLOGY



SPONSORSHIP



HISTORIAN



SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSITY LIASON



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LEGISLATIVE



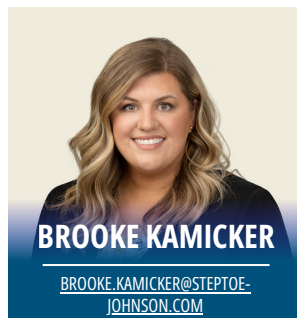
AWARDS



MARKETING



WOMEN OF THE MLBC



CLAY SHOOT



MEMBERSHIP



NEWSLETTER



ETHICS



FINANCE



SPRING GOLF



FALL GOLF



MLBC MEMBERSHIP REPORT APRIL & MAY 2026



MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Total Members:	342	Total Active:	308
Active:	271	% Active:	90.06%
Active PP:	37		
Honorary:	0		
		Associate:	25
		Student:	9

WELCOME NEWLY APPROVED MEMBERS!

APRIL

BRANDON GREINER
RAYMOND KIRKLEY
JOSH SCHRADER

MAY

NATHAN COX
BUDDY SHIVELY
RACHEL LAWSON
DANIEL GARCIA
DARCI PITT
MARK BYRER
JASON RANSON

JEFF HARBISON
ISABELLA HERROD
REGAN TRUSAL
ROWDY GARCIA
ZACHARY MCGAFFICK
GABRIEL DENSMORE

Additional membership resources are available at www.mlbc-aapl.org or by email to abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org. New members are approved on a monthly basis following the publication to our membership.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Marietta College student, Gunner Fertig, shows off the award he won at the MLBC Foundation Spring Charity Golf Outing

The MLBC membership application is located on the website at www.mlbc-aapl.org. Please check your information on the website prior to submitting your renewal. The [MLBC website](http://www.mlbc-aapl.org) has an updated version of the membership listing. Please use this resource if you cannot find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Abby Veigel at abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org.

Application for membership in the Association shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee's approval.

Notice of the approved application(s) of all potential Association member(s) shall be printed in the next regularly scheduled publication of the Association. Members shall have the opportunity for a period of thirty (30) days following the publication to object to the potential member's application.

