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The focus of the Fall 2014 issue is on TMRA’s Support Members. We have all heard the phrase, “If it can’t be grown, it has to be mined.” For it to be mined, mining companies rely on individuals and companies to provide them the tools, equipment, services and countless other things. Whether it is purchasing or maintaining heavy equipment, conducting ecological studies, or servicing the A/C unit that won’t cool the employee lunchroom, TMRA’s support members help make mining happen in Texas.
I trust you will agree with me that TMRA’s Texas Mining magazine is a first-class publication that provides the reader with a wealth of information about all facets of Texas’ mining industry. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to TMRA’s editorial team members who make Texas Mining the spectacular publication that it is. Their dedication and commitment to TMRA is readily apparent, and each issue sets the new standard. Thank you, team.

Summer has come and gone, and TMRA was very active conducting five teacher workshops across Texas encompassing industrial minerals, lignite and uranium operations. Attendees continue to confirm that these workshops are vital to ensuring students receive factual information regarding mining in Texas. Take a moment to read a teacher blog post on page 20 and teacher testimonials on page 16.

If you have not done so already, now is the time to register for TMRA’s Annual Meeting. This year’s meeting will take place October 26th through 28th at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop, Texas. To access the information packet and registration form, visit the home page of our new website at www.tmra.com and click on the Annual Meeting link located on the bottom half of the page. Online registration and payment is available, and member log-in on the website is not required in order to register and pay. Get a sneak peak at the schedule on page 19. We look forward to seeing you in a couple of weeks!

The midterm elections are fast approaching and, if you are like me, you probably can not wait until the day after the election so we are rid of all those ads! We all are aware of how important it is to participate in the voting process, but this means more than just going to the polls. I strongly encourage you to research the candidates and find out where they stand on mining-related issues and then make your vote count.

As with the election, transition within TMRA is on the horizon as my tenure as Chairman of TMRA’s Executive Committee nears completion. It has been a distinct privilege to serve as Chairman, and I want to thank our members, the Executive Committee and TMRA staff and contractors for their continued support as it is these individuals who truly make TMRA the successful trade association that it is! —Peter

---

Peter Luthiger
TMRA Chairman

---

Peter M. Holt is CEO of HOLT CAT, the largest Caterpillar equipment dealership in the United States, headquartered in San Antonio. He is the great-grandson of Benjamin Holt, who developed the first practical track-type tractor in 1904 and named it the Caterpillar. Peter is also Chairman, CEO and principal owner of the five-time NBA champion San Antonio Spurs.

Tim K. Light is senior vice president – Commercial Operations, responsible for energy marketing, energy trading, renewable energy, market operations, fuel procurement and commercial and financial analysis for American Electric Power’s regulated business units.

Peter M. Holt
CEO of HOLT CAT
Chairman, CEO and Principal Owner of the San Antonio Spurs

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Emotions are mixed as I write my last column for *Texas Mining* Magazine. What an incredible three years it has been. As I head off to start the next chapter of my life, I do so with a smile and very fond memories of the one just completed. At the same time, I will dearly miss it!

I am so proud to have been a part of a successful TMRA team. From the establishment of this magazine, to significant increases in membership to three banner Annual Meetings/Teacher Workshop Auctions, the list of achievements for this association is long and impressive. And it has only begun! I look forward to watching the further growth and success that is sure to come.

Coal has a good story. Uranium has a good story. Aggregates and other industrial minerals have a good story. However, each of these is not what makes TMRA the gem that it is. Rather, it’s you — each member, each board member, each officer and each contractor. Helpful, genuine, loyal, and hard-working truly describe the “faces” of TMRA. The friendships I have made during my tenure here are treasured and will continue. I’ll see you in the dove field, bay or Texas brush.

Good luck, God Bless, and Gig’em!
——Trey

---

The Texas Mining and Reclamation Association applauds Dr. Terry Clower, deputy director, Center for Regional Analysis, George Mason University, for yesterday’s testimony before the Texas House Environmental Regulation Committee, where he highlighted the results of an economic impact study he conducted while working at the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas.

The study, released in 2013, found that Texas’ coal industry, including coal mining and coal-fired power generation, provides more than $6.2 billion dollars annually in economic impact and more than 23,000 jobs to rural, and often underserved Texas counties. An updated version of the study will be released later this year.

“We are very appreciative of Dr. Clower’s comments,” said Ches Blevins, the TMRA General Counsel. “Texas cannot overlook the immediate need for a thriving coal industry in our state and the urgency, once again, to incorporate it more fully into a diverse energy plan as our growing reliance on energy demands it.”

Through his testimony, Clower confirmed that coal mining and coal-fired electricity generation are important economic engines in Texas, and that economic activity from these industries spark business activity up and down their respective supply chains, creating new jobs and income for Texas residents. Moreover, as a reliable source of fuel for electric power generation, Texas lignite coal is an important component of our power source diversification efforts, which makes the U.S. more energy independent and Texas a more competitive place to do business.

A complete version of the study, Coal Mining and Coal-Fired Power Generation in Texas: Economic and Fiscal Impacts, may be found online at http://tmra.com.
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CEC’s multi-disciplinary Mining Industry Consulting Group focuses on the unique business challenges and drivers of the industry and its diverse sectors. This approach has led to the successful completion of a wide range of projects that serve coal, aggregates and hard-rock mining companies – from design and permitting of refuse disposal areas, to water treatment studies, to assessing ecological resource impacts.

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With quality equipment and an experienced team, we can help bring conservation and productivity to your mining operations.
L&H Industrial, headquartered in Gillette, Wyoming, recently finished a large manufacturing and equipment repair project from QinetiQ North America on behalf of the National Aeronautics Space Administration. This project includes the machining and onsite assembly of components for Crawler Transporter #2, which will be a part of future space missions launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

“L&H Industrial is known for innovation, safety and manufacturing enhanced products for the mining industry, so working with large equipment with complicated problems is just part of what we do,” explains L&H Project Manager for the NASA Crawler Transporter project, Bill Schroyer.

“This project involved components familiar to us in the mining industry, and our team pulled out all the stops in putting the proposal together. I am proud of the work that was done to make it happen.”

NASA’s twin crawler transporters were built in the 1960s. These slow-motion giants have since carried every Saturn V rocket for the Apollo moon missions and every space shuttle vehicle from the Vehicle Assembly Building at KSC to Launch Complexes 39 “A” and “B”, three to four miles away.

The crawler transporter was originally designed and built by Marion Power Shovel. L&H began working on the proposal in March 2012. A “mock-up” was fabricated to test the required machining times for line boring the crawler transporter’s lower roller bores and faces, to the tolerances specified by the NASA Ames Research Center. There are 88 sets of bores on each crawler transporter; therefore, getting accurate machining times was critical. A demonstration shaft was also

---

By Brittney Thomas, Marketing Manager, L&H Industrial

One of the four finished “trucks” with L&H’s new roller assemblies on the Crawler #2 at the Kennedy Space Center. The machine’s payload was increased from 12 million pounds to 18 million pounds.

Source: L&H Industrial
This project involved components familiar to us in the mining industry, and our team pulled out all the stops in putting the proposal together. I am proud of the work that was done to make it happen.

machined to show the ability to maintain a surface finish finer than that requested on the prints. A team of four machinists developed machining procedures and estimated times to manufacture more than 1300 major parts. Forging quotes were received along with process control plans and heat-treating plans. All of this information was used to estimate the total project time. The complete project was estimated to take 18 months with eight months of the time on-site at KSC. The upgraded lower roller assemblies manufactured and installed by L&H will increase the transporter’s payload from 12 million pounds to 18 million pounds.

About L&H Industrial
L&H Industrial is a world leader in the design and manufacturing of superior parts for mining shovels, draglines, drills, mobile equipment and mineral processing equipment with a focus on innovation in order to improve reliability and operating costs of large equipment. L&H Industrial specializes in providing world-class field services and re-manufacturing and repair services for the global surface mining industry. Worldwide manufacturing facilities and offices: Gillette, WY (headquarters); Sheridan, WY; Tempe, AZ; Tucson, AZ; Hermosa, SD; Toole, UT; Antofagasta, Chile; Saltillo, Coahuila Mexico; Cananea, Sonora Mexico; Anand, Gujarat – India; Edmonton, Canada. For more information: www.lnh.net.

Photos, top to bottom:
Eighty-eight lower roller assemblies were manufactured and installed by L&H Industrial to upgrade NASA’s Crawler Transporter #2

Jason Percifield helped lead L&H on the NASA project, pictured here drilling on the crawler.

L&H team members Jason Percifield and Bill Schroyer met with Director of the Kennedy Space Center, Dave Cabana, showing him the progress on the Crawler Transporter.

Source: L&H Industrial
Standing Up Against EPA Overreach

The American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity is the only organization with the sole mission of protecting coal-based electricity and the industries that produce, transport and utilize coal. Our members are comprised of coal producers, railroads and electric utilities. We support policies that promote the use of coal, one of America’s largest domestically produced energy resources, to ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity no matter the temperature outside. Recent actions by the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon emissions from existing power plants, however, promise a swift end to affordable, reliable electricity.

The EPA’s proposal sets unique carbon reduction goals for each state. These dictate the average rate of carbon a state can emit for every megawatt of power generated. To meet EPA’s goals, states like Texas will be forced to make tough decisions that could include shifting generation sources, mandating energy efficiency or closing power plants.

Because Texas consumes about twice as much coal as any other state, millions of Texans and businesses stand to be negatively impacted. For Texas to meet the new limits, the state will have to reduce its overall carbon emission rate by 38 percent, even when it already has a lower carbon emission rate than 32 other states (according to EPA’s own baseline data). EPA’s limit for Texas is based on the state reducing its coal-fueled electricity generation by 52 percent. With this, Texas will be forced to turn even more to natural gas, known for its price volatility, or to more intermittent generation sources. The EPA proposal could result in nationwide costs of up to $32 billion per year and could cause nationwide average electricity rates to increase up to 9.9 percent per year. The costs could be very large for Texans who will be forced to bear the burden of these regulations.

America needs an “all of the above” energy strategy, and EPA’s proposed regulations are most definitely an “all but one” approach — leaving out coal. If we want to keep electricity bills low, jobs in place and our hard-won manufacturing renaissance alive and well, we must all stand up to EPA and tell the agency its proposal is simply unworkable.

ACCCE is heavily engaged in not only educating consumers and business about the costly consequences of EPA’s regulations on existing power plants, but also helping them to take action to ensure their elected officials and state legislatures hear them loud and clear that giving up affordable, reliable power to achieve politicized goals is not in our country’s best interest.

Visit us at www.AmericasPower.org to learn more about what we are up to and how you can get involved.

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2 Balanced Energy Texas.
4 Center for Strategic and International Studies’ preliminary analysis of the EPA proposal, July 2014.
We support policies that promote the use of coal, one of America’s largest domestically produced energy resources, to ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity.”
Permitting is a major challenge for most mine operators in Texas, due to the seemingly ever-changing evaluation criteria, impact limits, agency guidance and mitigation requirements. Over the last decade, HDR has utilized many successful processes to help operators streamline the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting process for lignite mines across the state of Texas. One of the most recent changes involves the Texas Rapid Assessment Method, which is now the USACE-preferred method to evaluate the ecological condition of streams and wetlands requiring a permit from the USACE Fort Worth District. For those unfamiliar with this method, TXRAM is a tool to help determine the potential impacts of fill activities and the benefits of mitigation efforts for USACE-authorized activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

TXRAM was developed to provide a rapid, repeatable, and field-based method that generates a single overall score for wetland or stream condition (health). HDR served as the lead contractor to the USACE Fort Worth District’s Regulatory Branch to develop this rapid assessment tool. After a review of existing assessment methods that did not meet the Fort Worth District’s needs, HDR developed distinct draft TXRAM modules for wetlands and streams. These modules require evaluation of multiple metrics, such as hydrologic connectivity, buffer condition, habitat features, and vegetation structure and diversity, to develop a comprehensive score of conditions. After the development process, the final TXRAM draft was revised following a field review across several Texas ecoregions. Additionally, each module utilizes distinct data and scoring sheets for recording information in the field and calculating an overall ecological condition score. The Fort Worth District published the “Final Draft for Public Review,” and this document is available for download from the district’s website. The USACE is planning to finalize TXRAM in 2015 to address comments received from agencies and consultants during the past two years of field testing.

Projects requiring notification to the USACE for authorization under a Section 404/Section 10 permit — particularly those requiring compensatory mitigation — are required to utilize a TXRAM evaluation. TXRAM is used to assist the USACE and project applicants in determining appropriate mitigation requirements. TXRAM was developed to be both rapid and flexible depending on project size, type and schedule. For mining applications, TXRAM is typically performed concurrently with a delineation of waters of the United States on each resource or a set of representative resources.

Since TXRAM was published for public use, HDR environmental scientists have performed TXRAM evaluations at multiple lignite mines around the state in support of Section 404 permit applications, including Letters of Permission, Individual Permits, and Nationwide Permits. In total, we have evaluated hundreds of acres of premine wetlands and numerous miles of premine streams. Plus, our environmental scientists have evaluated mitigation wetlands and streams created by the reclamation process at several mines to demonstrate the ecological benefit these resources provide.

Through the proper application of the TXRAM methodology on both premine and postmine wetlands and streams, HDR has successfully quantified the ability of mine operators to offset impacts to waters of the United States. Generally, postmine wetlands and streams have scored as well or better than premine wetlands and streams in many locations. This is partially due to the eroded and impaired condition of many ephemeral and intermittent streams in predominantly upland areas that were farmed or over grazed prior to mining activities. It is anticipated that postmine scores will continue to increase as reclamation matures and new mitigation techniques are employed. The results of HDR’s TXRAM evaluations at mine sites around the state serve as a testament to the industry’s commitment to reclamation and environmental stewardship.
“Our environmental scientists have evaluated mitigation wetlands and streams created by the reclamation process at several mines to demonstrate the ecological benefit these resources provide.”
TMRA conducted five programs for educators this summer. Three Coal Workshops: NAC - Sabine Mine, Hallsville; Luminant’s Three Oaks Mine, Elgin; and Texas Westmoreland Coal – Jewett Mine. The Industrial Minerals workshop, based in Round Rock, visited the Bureau of Economic Geology’s core repository and toured two operating quarries and a dimensional stone mill. The Uranium Workshop was based in Corpus Christi and included a tour of Mesteña Mine near Falfurrias, presentations from Uranium Energy Corporation and dinner with the South Texas SME Chapter.

The 100 Texas-based educators, who attended the workshops with the goal of heightening their knowledge about mining and reclamation, ranged from elementary school teachers to high school environmental science teachers. The teachers leave the workshops equipped with fact-based information and tools to help educate their students about Texas’ mining industry. Since 1991, close to two million students have been touched by TMRA’s Teacher Workshops.

“The most important thing I learned is how safe and clean uranium really is.”
Josalyn Conwell, Trinity Middle School, Trinity, Texas

“Mining company representatives explained how they test water and soil in the area before they begin and how they constantly monitor to make sure their work does not affect the environment.”
Mayra Martinez, King High School, Corpus Christi, Texas

“One of the most interesting things I learned was how many different career paths one can take in the mining industry. I will tell my students about the many careers to explore with mining.”
Nyeisha James, Universal Academy, Irving, Texas

“I enjoyed the hands-on activities and will be able to use most of them in my class. The tours were excellent! I hope I can relate how immense this endeavor is to my students. Overall – great workshop! I can’t wait to apply for another one next year!”
Diana Daniels, Tolar Junior High, Tolar, Texas
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Sunday, October 26

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<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>PE Course</td>
<td>Austin A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>PG Course</td>
<td>Austin B, Foyer of Austin A/B</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Annual Meeting Registration</td>
<td>Lost Pines 6-7-8</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lost Pines 6-7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td>Austin B, Lost Pines 5, Austin A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Exhibit Set-Up</td>
<td>Lost Pines Ballrooms 1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Board of Directors’ Meeting</td>
<td>Navarro Y Bangs</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
<td>Lost Pines Ballrooms 1-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Dinner on your own</td>
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Monday, October 27

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Fishing Tournament</td>
<td>Fayette County Lake</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Fun Night</td>
<td>LBJ Pavilion</td>
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<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Wolfdancer Golf Club</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
<td>Lost Pines Ballrooms 1-8</td>
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Tuesday, October 28

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Lost Pines Ballrooms 1-8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Moderators:
Peter Luthiger, Chairman
Chris Sumner, Treasurer
Mike Altavilla, Vice Chairman
Brett Wilson, Secretary

General Topics:
Annual Report
Safety Presentations
Legislative Panel Discussions
Election of Support Members for Board of Directors

Keynote Speakers:
Tim Light, American Electric Power
Peter Holt, HOLT CAT
Note: Additional speakers are being confirmed
One of the fab things about blogging is that I can find other teachers who have done something awesome and ask them to share their experiences on my blog. This post was written by Charitie Wright who participated in Coal Camp this summer. Charitie is a fifth grade teacher from Tyler, Texas who helps me from time to time with Science Penguin stuff. You know how sometimes you can just tell a person is an awesome teacher? She’s one of those, so it’s great to have her on my team! Now, for Charitie’s experience...

Flip flops, shorts and the beach? No thanks! I chose safety vests, hard hats and a coal mine. Yes, a coal mine! I just spent a week at the Texas Westmoreland Coal Company – Jewett Mine, for one of Texas Mining and Reclamation Association’s teacher workshops. The best thing about this camp? It was totally FREE! That’s a magic word for a teacher.

I learned about the camp at the Convention for the Advancement of Science Teaching last fall. More than 600 teachers apply to attend one of the five camps offered by TMRA (three coal camps, an industrial minerals camp and a uranium camp). Each camp hosts around 15 teachers.

From the time we arrived at Texas Westmoreland Coal Company – Jewett Mine on Monday, we were greeted and treated like celebrities — total VIP treatment. In the classroom we learned about the mining industry and the basic steps needed to plan and design a lignite mine. From permits to aquifers and soils to land reclamation, we learned more in one week about the mining industry than anyone could imagine.

The fieldwork we participated in was beyond words. We saw firsthand how the coal was dug from the ground and transported to NRG’s Limestone Electric Generating Station next door to create electricity for the Houston area. We also were able to see reclaimed land that had been restored to better than its original condition. This part of the tour was absolutely breathtaking.

We ended the week with a mock public hearing in which each teacher was given a role to play. Whether a mining employee or a townsperson, we had to use the knowledge we learned throughout the week to play our part. This was our opportunity to show what we learned as well as have a little creative fun too!

This whole experience will help me in the classroom tremendously. I had the opportunity to see it, touch it and experience it myself. I can now pass that knowledge I gained on to my students. I can explain to them that coal is more than just “a fossil fuel formed from dead plants.” From classifying matter to weathering, erosion and deposition, I learned so much more than I expected. All of the activities we participated in can be performed or modified to use with my students.

Needless to say, this week was the perfect vacation for a science teacher!!
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HOLT CAT® Names Chief Information Officer

San Antonio, Texas (July 9, 2014) – HOLT CAT® (holtcat.com), the Caterpillar® Equipment and Engine dealer for South, Central, North and North East Texas, recently named Elaine Hicks as senior vice president, chief information officer.

In her new role, she will be responsible for strategically leveraging information technology to achieve business goals. Previously Hicks served as senior director of information technologies and, in this role, Hicks helped define the strategic information technology direction for the organization. She also implemented a program to provide governance and direction for all IT activities.

Prior to joining HOLT CAT, Hicks served as director of information services for C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc. where she had responsibility for all corporate computing operations for the company’s domestic and European manufacturing facilities. Hicks received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Texas A&M University.

Luminant Completes Industry-Leading Dragline Relocation Project

Dallas, Texas (Sept. 12, 2014) – Pioneering a new technique for transporting some of North America’s largest earthmovers, Luminant recently relocated four draglines using a state-of-the-art 1,000-wheel vehicle. The mega machines were moved more than 30 miles to new mining areas across East and Central Texas this past Spring and Summer.

Nearly 60 self-propelled modular transporters, trailers powered by up to nine 600-horsepower engines, were used to move the draglines – the smallest weighing six million pounds and the two largest weighing 13 million pounds each. This engineering achievement was no small feat, according to Steve Kopenitz, Luminant senior vice president of mining.

“It usually takes several years to disassemble and rebuild a single dragline, or months of planning and preparation to ‘walk’ them to new mining sites. With our longest move spanning 15 miles, we needed to find a way to safely, efficiently and cost-effectively transport the draglines,” Kopenitz said.

“Thanks to the ingenuity of our employees, we shortened the relocation process to just a few weeks per dragline using the interconnected trailers. The success of this industry-changing method represents our employees’ commitment to innovation and to safely and reliably powering Texas.”

HOLT CAT® Announces Senior Vice President

San Antonio, Texas (June 16, 2014) – HOLT CAT® (holtcat.com), the Caterpillar® Equipment and Engine dealer for South, Central, North and North East Texas, has named Edward Craner as senior vice president, strategy and marketing. In his new role, Craner will continue to lead and develop corporate strategy, marketing and customer experience initiatives to support sales growth across the 118-county territory in which HOLT CAT operates.

Craner has been with HOLT since 2008, most recently serving as vice president of strategy and marketing, and he was instrumental in refining the organization’s strategic planning process and operational alignment initiatives.

Prior to joining HOLT CAT, Craner worked for AT&T in sales operations and supply chain management. Craner has a Bachelor of Arts in Media Communications from Eastern Washington University and a Master of Business Administration in Strategy and Marketing from Saint Mary’s College of California.
Joyce Crane specializes in crane and rigging services up to 800 tons in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and the South Central United States.

Your valuable trust in allowing us to lift your product is covered by our extensive lift policy that provides $15 million dollars coverage to you and your product. Because of our focus on safety and exceeding the industry standards, Joyce has an outstanding 20 year average experience modifier of .720, which enables us to provide this coverage for you. This extensive lift policy is not provided by many other crane companies and is not covered under a company’s general liability policy.

Joyce Crane is a proud member of these organizations:
- Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association Safety Council
- Safety Council of East Texas
- Texas Mining and Reclamation Association
- Holmes Safety Association
- Texas Eastman Contractors Safety Council

Joyce Crane’s talented and routinely trained professionals continually focus on safety and quality. Our safety program is our single most important asset. All Joyce Crane operators meet NCCCO, CICB, and ANSI B30.5 certification. Our superior safety rating has allowed Joyce Crane to grow and keep our rates competitive.

We strive not only to meet but to exceed our customer’s goals and expectations. With 29 years in the crane industry, Joyce has developed a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with your company.

Joyce Crane specializes in crane and rigging services up to 800 tons in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and the South Central United States.
What do you do?
I provide product development research for water, wastewater, and soils. Water is life. It is important to preserve the good, clean water we have for future generations.

What is your favorite part of the job?
Helping people restore water to a better state or condition. For example, I enjoy going to farmland or pastureland and working with a rancher to restore the soil to its original condition.

Why is your role important to the mining industry in Texas?
Any human impact on the land can disturb or distress water and soil, whether the activity is farming, construction, mining or oil and gas extraction. We are able to restore water and soil back to original conditions or perhaps to even better quality than it was in prior to mining. I help put bio solids back into soil to restore it and make it fertile again.

What would you tell a young person interested in pursuing this field?
There are very few people in Texas with this range of experience and understanding of the dynamics of water and soil restoration. We need people to step up, people who like the outdoors and like to get their hands dirty. Part of this job is like solving a mystery – it’s figuring out why the ground isn’t producing and understanding the chemical and microbiology side of it to help it start producing again. Students interested in water and soils should pursue degrees in microbiology, environmental engineering, environmental science and agriculture. The opportunity for long-term professional development is huge. Healthy water and soil ecosystems are required for a healthy planet – without them there is no life.
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Eddie Bearden, CPSS, PG
Environmental Senior Project Manager, HDR
Bachelor of Science degree, Texas A&M University, Agronomy;
Masters of Science degree, Texas A&M University, Soil Science

With 39 years of experience in the natural resources field, most folks involved in Texas lignite mining know Eddie Bearden. And they know Eddie for more than his technical capabilities and his good-natured approach to life — many know him as a friend and a mentor. During his career, Eddie has worked on various projects touching reclamation, soils, overburden, bond release, permitting and soil survey. This distinguished career began in 1975 at the Soil Conservation Service, working on the Soil Survey program at a variety of locations across Texas. He attended graduate school at Texas A&M University while working with the Soil Conservation Service, and his master’s research focused on variability in mine-soils compared to native soils.

“If a young person seeking a career enjoys variety in their work and being outdoors, a career in mine reclamation is a good fit.”

Eddie first entered the Texas mining industry in 1985 as a reclamation specialist at the Texas Utilities Mining Company’s Big Brown Mine, where he worked for six years before moving to the Environmental Services Department. After 23 years in the Luminant system, Eddie retired in 2008 and began working with HDR in the Dallas office. Moving to the consulting world from industry is a culture shock for anyone; however, in many ways this change opened up pathways which provided Eddie the ability to offer clients additional services. This is exactly what Eddie does today. Luminant leaders Sid Stroud and Carl Ivy provided this comment on Eddie’s career: “Eddie was instrumental in the NRCS designation of certain reclaimed mine soils as ‘prime farmland soil’ and played a key role in the establishment of postmine soil sampling protocol and performance standards based upon native soil characteristics. He, like many other soil science leaders in Texas mine reclamation, gained a great deal of his expertise under the tutelage of such greats as Charlie Thompson, Dr. James A. DeMent, Dr. Lloyd Hossner, and other pioneers of the reclamation science in Texas.”

In his own words, Eddie feels the highlights of his career include serving as the president of the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation, soil mapping, editing soil survey manuscripts, working on reclamation at Big Brown Mine, overseeing soils & overburden programs for TXU, managing bond release and extended responsibility programs, writing multiple nationwide permit 21 and individual permit applications, and consulting on revegetation and mitigation projects for lignite mining clients.
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