

Ecological Restoration

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Front Cover Feature:

Surface coal mining affects over 600,000 ha of forest habitat across Appalachia. Habitat loss coupled with disease (White-nose Syndrome) have contributed to the listing of four bat species regionally. Many bat species (such as *Eptesicus fuscus*, pictured here) may benefit from the creation of wetlands on reclaimed mined lands. Snyder *et al.* analyzed bat activity in reclaimed sites to determine how it changes with landscape context and time since reclamation. Image credit: Erin McHale

Back Cover Features:

Top: Restoration ecologists organize their practices around promoting ecosystem function, rather than form or aesthetics. How visitors and observers perceive a restoration is rarely a priority, as it is not the primary scientific goal of ecological enhancement. This can be a missed opportunity. Weaner highlights the subtle landscape elements contributing to positive visitor experiences and public perceptions of restoration projects and explains why this should matter to restoration practitioners. Image credit: Mark Weaner

Middle: Price *et al.* assessed Red-backed Salamander (*Plethodon cinereus*, pictured here) abundance in legacy surface mines restored via the Forestry Reclamation Approach, unrestored legacy surface mines, and mature, unmined forests in the Monongahela National Forest (West Virginia). Image credit: Steven J. Price

Bottom: Creeks and streams experience a variety of local environmental stressors, from nonpoint source pollution to erosion and scouring events enhanced by adjacent land use. Reese *et al.* compared the benefits of stream restoration vs stream enhancement programs (as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) using a Habitat Quality Improvement Index (HQII) to compare macroinvertebrate communities. Image credit: Tabby Fenn