

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Robert E. Hughes-August 2006 Monthly Report
Luzerne Conservation District
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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted an AMD Tie-Dye Workshop with nearly 60 students and adults from the Luzerne County Mental Health Department at Moon Lake County Park at the request of the Luzerne County Recreation Department's Executive Director, Andy Gregaris, who works with the Luzerne Conservation District and EPCAMR on dozens of projects in the Wyoming Valley Watershed
- Watershed Tour conducted with Dawn Zera, Times-Leader newspaper staff correspondent who was covering a story on our upcoming *Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit* in Wilkes-Barre
- Field Meetings conducted with Ken Anderson, volunteer from Avoca, who will be assisting in getting volunteers for a Fall Cleanup on an 11 acre AML site, in the Mill Creek Watershed and a separate meeting was followed up by the EPCAMR Program Staff and the PA DEP's Steve Bartos under the COALS Program that will be providing the funding support to remove the illegal dumping and the debris from the site
- Continued coordination and final planning needs for the upcoming State-wide AMR Conference in State College with members of the Steering Committee and the Atherton Hotel
- Set up and exhibited over 80 pieces of art work completed by nearly 40 regional artists, local youth art students, galleries, and members of the Wyoming Valley Art League, Sue Hand's Imagery, Association for the Arts (AfA) Gallery, and other contributors who utilized iron oxide recovered and harvested by EPCAMR Program Staff and OSM Anthracite Art Education Intern Devon Rother; The Anthrascapes AMD Art Show was publicly exhibited at the Arts YOUiverse Studios, downtown Wilkes-Barre, from August 6-19th; Pictures of the art works will be uploaded to the EPCAMR website at www.orangewaternetwork.org in the coming weeks ahead; Held a very successful evening artists' reception on August 11th that was well attended by the public and the artists that participated in the first-ever show of its kind in Wilkes-Barre
- Meeting was held at the Luzerne Conservation District with Tom Posluszny, POZ Environmental, to discuss and begin to prepare a draft grant application to the PA DEP for the development of a Water Resources Report for the Wyoming Valley Watershed utilizing a combination of historical water quality data to be made available by Mr. Posluszny, that will be incorporated into our GIS Database overlays of the Mine Pool infrastructure of the Wyoming Valley
- Conducted a NFWF GIS Workshop with Rob Lavelle for Laflin Borough, Luzerne County and provided a base AML/AMD Map for the municipality
- Conducted an AMD/AML Tour with the Legislative Directors from Senator Santorum's District Office in Scranton and his DC Office with John Dawes, PA AML Campaign Director and Program Coordinator for the Western PA Watershed Program
- Conducted an AMD/AML Tour with Larry Stelmac, Delaware Valley College representative, who was in town to evaluate Devon Rother's internship experience with EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District

- Meeting at the Luzerne Conservation District with Angela Bestwick, 5th grade teacher at Dallas Elementary School District, who is interested in submitting a 2007 TOYOTA Tapestry Grant that would allow her students to work with EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District Staff to develop a hands-on technology outdoor environmental education program, GIS/GPS, water monitoring program, and wetland plant identification program on the grounds of our District Wetlands in Hanover Township; Worked with her to develop a backbone for the grant and flushed out some preliminary budget numbers and materials/supplies list for her to consider
- Conducted an AMD/AML Tour with a dozen youth from the Luzerne County's Children Service Center that requested an opportunity to have the Conservation District provide their youth with an chance to see the outdoors and to work with the AMD in an artistic way following the tour by giving them the freedom to create a piece of art out of the iron oxide on the grounds of the Luzerne Conservation District; Devon Rother and Leigh Ann Kemmerrer assisted with the program
- Meeting with Laflin Borough officials to conduct some flood damage assessments in the Gardner Creek Watershed along Main Street; Large gravel bar depositions in the area are causing concerns for future flooding of homes along the Creek; Maintenance issue belongs to PA DOT and the Luzerne Conservation District provided technical assistance and suggestions for how to go about cleaning up and stabilizing the areas along several stretches of the Creek
- Conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop at Moon Lake County Park where 50 members showed up as a part of the Park's Family Weekend Fun Days
- Conducted a NFWF GIS Workshop with Rob Lavelle for Butler Township, Luzerne County and provided a base AML/AMD Map for the municipality
- Worked on closing out the NFWF GIS Grant with Rob Lavelle, who completed his 1 year grant funded position on August 26th, the last day of the State-wide AMR Conference

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted a NFWF GIS Workshop with Rob Lavelle for Mt. Carmel Township, Northumberland County and provided a base AML/AMD Map for the municipality
- Attended a field assessment meeting at the Greenbury AML site coordinated by Paul Lohin, EPCAMR Board Member and member of the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, as well as the Chair of the Schuylkill Conservation District; Current land reclamation efforts that have reclaimed upstream acres of former AML lands are now redirected stream flows into areas where homes are located and pipe culverts under state bridges are too small to handle the additional overland flows; Meeting had multi-level agency representation to discuss what needed to be done to rectify the situation-PA DOT, PA DEP, PA BMR, EPCAMR, SHA, SCD, Rettew Associates, local municipal officials, and State Representative James Rhoades
- Conducted a NFWF GIS Workshop with Rob Lavelle with Glenn Pellino, Executive Director-Lackawanna County Council on Economic Development and will be providing him with maps
- Coordinated the 8th Annual State-wide Conference on AMR-"Back to Basics"; 189 attendees, 15 exhibitors, 40 speakers, in attendance over the two days; See www.treatminewater.com for details and all presentation materials from each of the speakers and sessions
- Meeting with Judi Keats, Assistant Professor, Division of Fine Arts at Keystone College, LaPlume, Lackawanna County, who asked to have the EPCAMR Program coordinate an AMD/AML Watershed tour for her mixed-media art class in the Fall in order for them to work on art pieces for our Fall 2006 *Anthrascapes AMD Art Show* that we are continuing to coordinate
- Attended the PA Resource Conservation & Development Council Annual Meeting in Bedford, PA and reported on projects that the District and EPCAMR are involved with in partnership with the Pocono NE RC & DC
- Worked with the Dauphin County Conservation District, PA DEP 319 Program, and OSM to submit a budget amendment for the Bear Creek AMD Remediation Project