

EPCAMR



Robert E. Hughes
Luzerne Conservation District AML Program Manager-EPCAMR

EPCAMR Regional Coordinator
www.orangewaternetwork.org
rhughes@epcamr.org
570-674-7993

August 2007 Monthly Report

Education and Outreach

- Conducted an AMD Outreach Program for the Little Friendship Girl Scout Camp, Forty-Fort; Tie-dyed **100** AMD T-shirts with the **100** elementary-aged children
- Coordinated a meeting of the Anthracite Living History Group at the Plymouth Township Municipal Building to finalize plans for the 138th Annual Commemoration of the Avondale Mine Disaster and the placement of the Joe Keating Memorial Marker for his work to preserve the memory of the Avondale Mine Disaster, Plymouth Township
- Conducted an AMD Outreach Program for the Luzerne County MH/MR Program, along with the Luzerne County Parks/Recreation Summer Program, Moon Lake County Park; Tie-dyed **60** AMD T-shirts with the participants
- Conducted an AMD Outreach Program combined with AMD Water Quality Sampling and a Youth Fishing Program at Moon Lake County Park, Plymouth Township; **15** people attended, **5** of those made AMD T-shirts and participated in the 4 hr Program
- Meeting with Angela Bestwick, Dallas Area Elementary Teacher to assist her with putting in a **\$10,000** grant application to Busch-Gardens/Sea World, in partnership with EPCAMR, the Luzerne Conservation District, and the Dallas Area School District on a project that integrates GIS, AML, and Wetlands Plant Identification and Delineation on the Conservation District Wetlands grounds along Middle Road, Hanover Township
- Provided some information on EPCAMR's AMD Tie-Dye AMD Outreach Workshops to a teacher who requested information from Tucker County, West Virginia through our website

Technical Assistance

- Attended a Pocono NE RC & DC Projects Committee Meeting to review and provide comment on Ryan Koch's and the RC & DC's FY2008 Annual Plan of Work and to add additional progress to his report where EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District have partnered to accomplish several of the goals in the FY2007 Plan of Work
- Provided regional contacts in the reclamation business to Joe Poppiti, Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost, Inc who would like to start spreading the word on the beneficial use of mushroom compost on AML as a follow-up to our State-wide AMR Conference
- Provided OSM with some EPCAMR Program accomplishments on projects that utilized OSM Appalachian Clean Streams funding; 2007 is SMCRA's 30th Anniversary

Project Coordination

- Contacted Dennis Palladino, PA DEP- BAMR Project Officer for the ***Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Restoration Project*** to find out why our working capital funds have not been received as of yet; Forwarded a second copy of the letter that was submitted in March 2007; Finally received a fully executed grant/contract in the mail from Harrisburg related to the Project, assuming that the working capital request will be moved forward shortly in order for EPCAMR to begin to work on the project
- Contacted Dan Koury-Project Officer for the ***GIS Mine Pool Mapping Project*** to discuss setting up a meeting to move forward on the hiring of an individual to assist with the data collection of needed information for the GIS Database to build the Mine Pool Mapping layers for the Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields; Prepared two letters and submitted them to the Schuylkill Conservation District and the Schuylkill Headwaters Association requested their assistance in becoming partners in the project
- Completed and submitted a Final Report for the PA Fish & Boat ***Commission "From City Streets to Valley Streams"*** Wyoming Valley Watershed/Aquatics Grant Program; EPCAMR was able to leverage **\$9, 844** in donated in-kind support for the program over the year; 58 youth and **13** adults were introduced to the art of fishing, utilizing the PA F& BC Smart Angler Program, as well as mad more aware of some of the environmental problems related to water quality impacts to the Wyoming Valley's rivers and streams, as well as lakes, within the local watersheds; Nearly **90% (52/58)** of the youth never had a fishing experience before **21** youth from the Wilkes-Barre Boulevard Townhomes; **22** youth from the Plains Mineral Springs Complex; **15** youth were from the Greater Nanticoke Area, representing Boy Scouts of America Cub Scouts Troop 430, Glen Lyon. Watershed concepts, essential needs of fish and macro-invertebrates were taught to the youth, names of all of the local streams in the Wyoming Valley were presented, water testing, habitat assessments were discussed, and ways in which the youth can continue to be involved in future stream-side cleanups or local litter cleanups were also reiterated. A Leaf Pack Kit was utilized to introduced the youth to both healthy aquatic insects, bugs, and pollution tolerant insects and bugs to help them identify critters that might be around their local streams and or street lights
- Completed and submitted to OSM a Final narrative Report on the Audenreid AMD Treatment System

Cleanup Coordination

- Conducted a litter cleanup on the grounds of the Avondale AML Mine Site with **4** members of the Anthracite Living History Group in preparation for the upcoming September 6th Commemoration Event; **1** Couch, **1** Stove, **5** bags of trash (**150** pounds), and nearly **40** pieces of wood from an old deck were removed from the site
- Coordinated with Julie McMonagle-PEC NE Office to have the 40 cubic yard dumpster picked up from the Newport Cemetary AML Site, Newport Township

Conferences and Trainings

- Completed our Post-Conference Evaluation for the 2007 AMR Conference with the Conference Steering Committee Members
- Meeting with Duane Feagley, Executive Director of the PA Anthracite Council, in Hazleton, to coordinate a joint meeting between the Anthracite Industry operators and the EPCAMR Board of Trustees for October 18, 2007 in the Hazleton area to discuss the recent AML Reauthorization and its impact on the Anthracite Region and ways to become more cooperative on reclamation and AMD stream remediation projects with landholders

Conferences and Trainings

- Coordinated with Mike and Ryan Koch-Pocono NE RC & DC on the planning, AMD Tie-Dye Workshop, and tour route for the upcoming September Mid-Atlantic RC & DC Annual Meeting in Grantville

Conservation District Communications

- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District Staff Meeting
- Final Inspection with the Dauphin County Conservation District Staff at the Bear Creek AMD Remediation Site for the Lykens Water Level Tunnel #1 Project to complete the close-out report for the Office of Surface Mining
- Field Investigation with Chuck Wertz, Lebanon County Conservation District, Lebanon Water Authority, and local watershed members at the Gold Mine Run AMD discharge, on State Game Lands 211, Lebanon County

Internship Coordination

- Submitted Joe Looker's Final Report electronically to Mary Kay Gonzalez-Office of Surface Mining



Canopy Cover on the Avondale Hill Trail