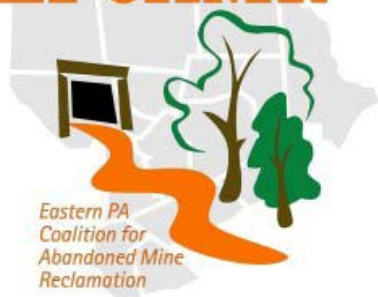


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Robert E. Hughes-July 2006 Monthly Report

Luzerne Conservation District

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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued working on field assessments of streams in Lower Luzerne County with Mike
- Coordinated an AML Cleanup along Sickler Run, a soon to be restored tributary to the Susquehanna River and Route 11, Plymouth Township with **50** Wilkes University Freshman students; Removed **175** tires and loaded up a 40 cubic yard dumpster full of waste, debris, and car parts from a site that had been littered for several years; Cleaned up roadside trash, pulled weeds, and painted a white picket fence with a fresh coat of paint around the Avondale Mine Disaster Historical Marker and the National Welsh American Foundation Market along Route 11 in preparation for a small community garden project; PA DEP is donating **\$250** for flowers and supplies for the gardens in appreciation for the work done along Sickler Run; Two dumpsters were donated by Waste Management-one for debris and the other for the tires that will be scrap recycled at Mahantongo Scrap Tire Recycling in Liverpool, PA
- Conducted two AMD Education Programs with Valerie and Devon at the John B. McGlynn Learning Center, Wilkes-Barre, as a part of the Summer Splash Program; Later in the week, we conducted an AMD Art Education Project as well with the **34** youth who attended the Program
- Conducted an AMD Watershed Tour with nearly a dozen local artists from the Wyoming Valley with Devon; These artists will be creating original art pieces for the upcoming "*Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit*" at Arts YOUNiverse, Wilkes-Barre from August 6-19th
- Conducted AML Illegal Dump Site Investigations in the Greater Nanticoke Area with PA DEP NE Regional Office Staff and COALS Program Coordinator Steve Bartos and toured the E. South Street AML Cleanup location that is scheduled for July 22nd to show them where the dumpster placement should be for the event; Looked at 4 sites for future cleanups-1) along Delbaso Ford's property near W. Church Street; 2) Whitney Point Development; 3) Newport Lake; and some AML belonging to Ken Pollock, along Newport Creek in Newport Township and bordering the City of Nanticoke
- Meeting with Walt Dietz from the PA Fish & Boat Commission to review the grant guidelines and to receive supplies and reference resources for the planned "From City Streets to Valley Streams" Fishing Program that EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District will be conducting once the **\$3300** contract is approved
- Conducted more stream damage assessment work along the Nescopeck Creek and below Beach Mountain Lakes, along State Route 309, in the area of the old Angela Park, with Mike and Steve Hahn, Black Creek Township Manager
- Conducted the Annual Board Meeting of the EPCAMR Board at the Luzerne Conservation District

- Conducted AML Illegal Dump Site Investigations with the PA DEP NE Regional Office and COALs Program Coordinator Steve Bartos in Hazle and Banks Twp., Jeansville, and in the Village of Treskow
- Conducted the E. South Street Cleanup in the City of Nanticoke with the Nanticoke Terrace Residents Association, the Nanticoke Housing Authority, Nanticoke Conservation Club members, and local youth; A press release detailing the results of the cleanup is attached; 25 volunteers attended the event

LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Participated in a meeting convened by Kate Feissner-EMARR, Borton Lawson Engineering, Mike, and Chris Kocher-Wildlands Conservancy to review the bid documents for the construction of the oxic limestone drain AMD Treatment System for the Buck Mountain Tunnel that drains from Luzerne County into the Upper Lehigh in Carbon County; Discussed maintenance options for the Luasanne AMD Treatment Wetlands, outside of Nesquehoning, that would enhance the iron removal process from the system with Chris and scheduled a follow up visit to the site later in the Summer
- Meeting with Mike V. from Creative Printing Services Direct, a marketing and communications service company in Wilkes-Barre who may print some of the art prints following our *Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit*
- Meeting with Matt Mascaro, JP Mascaro & Sons, and Environmental Compliance Specialist who wanted to tour some AML areas that might be in need of Class A Compost material for revegetation of abandoned mine sites; Toured the Avondale-Curry Hill AML Reclamation Site and told him that EPCAMR and the Luzerne Conservation District would put out some information to watershed groups and other reclamation related organizations in the region that might need some for community service or beautification projects
- Prepared a letter of support at the request of Julie McMonagle-Director of the PEC NE Office for a grant application to assist with the removal of waste coal from the Lorree AML Banks in Larksville Borough by the Mt. Carmel Co-Generation Plant
- Sent off a press release via e-mail announcing the upcoming AMD Conference to the local newspapers in the County and to all of the regional watershed groups and Conservation District Watershed Specialists in the EPCAMR Region
- Sent off a press release announcing the upcoming Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit in Wilkes-Barre to the local news media outlets and all of the artists that Devon had compiled in her database over the Summer; A press release is available
- Updated the EPCAMR ArcGIS 9.1 Service Pack 2 on my computer
- Developed a Publisher Flyer advertising for the anticipated Avondale AML Industrial Art Project unveiling on September 17th in partnership with the Plymouth Historical Society, members of the Anthracite Living History Group, Plymouth Township, the Luzerne Conservation District, EPCAMR, and hopefully, some of the students from the W-B Vo-Tech Machine Shop Class that constructed the Project
- Responded to Chuck Cravotta's request to be a formal reviewer of the USGS Scientific Investigations Report, "Effects of Historical Coal Mining and Drainage from Abandoned Mines on Stream flow and Water Quality in Newport and Nanticoke Creeks, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania," that should be ready for technical review later this month

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted an AMD Tour of the Audenreid AMD Treatment System with **35** college students from Penn-State's AgLEAP Program, State College, PA
- Conducted a NFWF GIS Workshop hosted by the Forest City Borough, Susquehanna County with Rob Lavelle; 3 other surrounding municipalities attended and representatives from Wayne County, Clinton Township, also were in attendance, in addition to the Mayor of Forest City and members of the Forest City Planning Commission
- Participated in several conference calls with multiple committees who are working on finalizing the agenda, presenters, exhibitors, media outreach, and planning for the 8th Annual AMD Conference in State College, PA, set for August 24-26th at the Atherton Hotel
- Conducted a conference call with the US EPA Region III Headquarters out of Washington DC to talk to staff from the Brownfields Program to see if they were interested in becoming co-presenters at the upcoming AMD Conference; The Brownfields and Land Revitalization Technology Support Center is willing to bring hundreds of copies of The Mine Site Cleanup for Brownfield Redevelopment Primer to distribute to all attendees of the Conference; Part of the topic will be on the differences between typical site assessments in the brownfields program and the AML brownfields cleanups and they will breakdown the Primer for everyone as well as talk briefly about funding opportunities through this program that now includes abandoned mine lands in its language for funding
- Prepared a letter of support at the request of Roger Bason, President, for Natural Currents, LLC, who is interested working with the Antrim Treatment Trust, Tioga County to establish a small hydropower plant there at the outfall of the Antrim #2 AMD Treatment Plant
- Made an appeal with Devon and provided some AMD iron oxide pigment to an Art Education Class of **20** students at Lackawanna Junior College that are working under the Scranton Arts Alive Program who will also be creating pieces for our ***Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit***
- Began discussions with Mike Gorak-spokesman for a company in Philadelphia, Martin/F. Weber, America's Oldest Art Materials Manufacturer (<http://www.weberart.com>) who purchases pigments from other companies and who is interested in helping us out and partnering with us; The company was referred to us by one of the artists who will be appearing in the ***Anthrascapes AMD Art Exhibit*** in the coming weeks; He is going to be following up with me on some contact information for other manufacturers of iron oxide pigments that he purchases from to see if they would talk with us about potentially taking a look at our iron oxide, treatment facilities, and the potential for harvesting some of the iron oxide for use by their respective companies
- Requested assistance from Kovalchik & Kollar Associates on behalf of the EPCAMR Board to assist the organization in applying for its State Tax Exemption Certificate