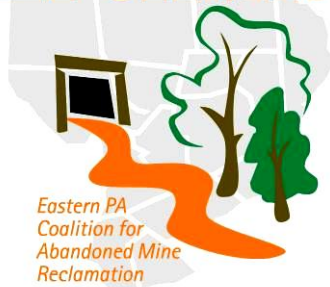


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation March 2010 Progress Report

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### **Highlights:**

- Georeferenced 26 OSM Folio maps, updated 2 layers and continued writing Part 3 of the report for the Mine Pool Mapping Project; produced 2 maps and 1 database for 3 EPCAMR partners.
- EPCAMR staff presented at SHA Mtg., Anthracite Strategy Mtg. & 2 CCTOW Outdoor Classroom Events; hosted 2 cleanups over 3 days that filled a 40 cu. yd. dumpster.
- Updated [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and aided 2 other organizations with website updates.

### **Education and Outreach:**

- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of February, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Attended a Schuylkill Headwaters Association meeting and made a presentation to the group about Datashed. The SHA currently has a "tailor-made" GIS Database that they use to collect and store water quality data. This database, however easy to use, is not freely expandable. As new projects are added, the database needs to be updated by the company that made it. The group agreed that this would be a great resource for them, but had a few issues that would need to be addressed before they could agree to use it and incorporating their database may not be that easy. They were concerned that supplying maps of the sites could harm relationships with landowners of the passive treatment sites if it increases traffic to the site. Perhaps adding an extra "site access instructions" field to a treatment system or monitoring point would be effective and maybe something added to the homepage to say...."be sure your have proper permission to access sites on private property". Also another issue us that there isn't a place to show what sampling methods the group follows. This could easily be taken care of by adding a "Method of Sampling" attribute to the sampling database. I also suggested creating a document that states the sampling methods and uploading it to the "downloads" section of each monitoring point (several can be selected easily).
- EPCAMR staff co-hosted and presented an update on the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative at the Anthracite Strategy Meeting with Susquehanna River Basin Commission at the Penn State Campus in Hazleton. There were approximately 20 groups in attendance and providing feedback on the effort.
- Posted the 2010 Watershed Summit on [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) to aide in getting people to register early for the event.
- Compiled information on EPCAMR Region projects and created the 2009 EPCAMR Year In Review. The document is approximately 10 pages and can be found on our website at <http://www.orangewaternetwork.org/storage/staff/EPCAMR2009ProgReview.pdf>
- E-mailed Cathy Haffner to setup a meeting with the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association (CCRA) and talk to them about starting to used Datashed. She let me know that Bloomsburg University is already stepping up to the plate for some monitoring on the Catawissa Creek and

they will work on getting this data on Datashed, but that the group is not that interested in monitoring. She is looking to get some of them enrolled in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which has worked well in the Schuylkill River Headwaters.

- Updated the profiles for the Pine Forest and Reevesdale Mine Drainage Treatment Systems on Datashed.
- Snapped a few photos of the development now going in on the former Huber Banks site. The mountains of culm were removed more than 5 years ago by Northampton Fuel Supply, burned at the Co-Generation Station and the ash brought back steaming hot to fill the pit. An access road being cut down through the site showed the variegated layers of ash which seemed to provide a very stable base for the development and did not wash away as it was hit by several spring showers. These photos were posted to our photo gallery on [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org).
- EPCAMR staff led a site tour and monitoring at the Old Forge Borehole for approximately 80 high school students and teachers associated with the Community Connections to Our Watershed Lackawanna County Program.
- EPCAMR staff presented our Mine Pool Mapping Initiative to over 40 students and teachers associated with the Community Connections to Our Watershed Luzerne County Program.
- EPCAMR staff purchased items for the Pennsylvania Ave Cleanup including a tow behind trailer and coordinated a cleanup over 2 Saturdays in March (3-20 & 3-27) at the Penn Ave, High & Dana St. Cleanup Site along a railroad and abandoned colliery foundation. Downloaded site photos taken with my phone to the laptop and gave them to Leigh Ann for sorting.
- EPCAMR staff conducted a trash pickup around the EPCAMR/ Earth Conservancy office and the wooded area between the office and the Huber Breaker. Took a truckload of trash to the dumpster at the site of the Pennsylvania Ave Cleanup.
- EPCAMR staff visited the Avondale Mine Disaster site to see the work of the Wilkes-Barre Technical and Career Center students and to plan future work days at the site, which will include another illegal trash cleanup unfortunately, since people carelessly strewn the site again with household waste. Hopefully when the Susquehanna Warrior Trail is developed in this area, the site will finally get the respect it deserves and people won't treat it like a junkyard. It is quite discouraging that this site needs an annual cleanup.
- Met with Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association Executive Director and EPCAMR President, to discuss the current status and future plans of projects in the Lackawanna River Watershed. Currently, with EPCAMR's help, weirs have been installed on the Gray Slope and the Vandling Discharges to monitor flow and chemistry for possible water resource development by a gas company. Foot work is also being done to install a flow monitoring device in the Old Forge Borehole. The challenge here is not only to access the borehole by cutting through a concrete cap, but to find a flow monitoring device that can withstand the force of water being routed into the flume.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Created a map for Tim Ference, Friends of the Nescopeck, to show the area around the Jeddo Tunnel. The map will be used to identify landowners and assess the potential to place an environmental education center and trail to the tunnel.
- Installed Captcha on the "submit a weblink" section of [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org). A captcha is a type of [challenge-response](#) test used in computing to ensure that the response entered in a webform is not generated by a computer, but by a human. The algorithm does not work 100% as expected with our website setup, but does stop the auto-generation of thousands of bogus weblinks that has been seen in recent months. Currently, if a visitor to our website wants to post a weblink, the user is directed to e-mail me directly.
- Researched the possibility of using a different webhost, [Host Gator](#). If this was done, EPCAMR would pay a little more per year (~\$20) for several more unlimited services and invest in sustainable wind power energy as well. This would also open the opportunity to allow EPCAMR

to host member organization websites. Currently, 3 member websites are hosted as sub-domains on our server. Costs could be recouped through a webhosting fee charged to EPCAMR Members that use the service.

- Updated and upgraded the old EPCAMR Intern Computer, a Toshiba 8000s from the Computer Recycling Program, for the use of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society (HBPS) as they perform website updates. Also setup an e-mail for Ray Clarke on the epcamr.org domain.
- Assisted the Earth Conservancy with recovering a computer that crashed. The operating system could not be repaired and had to be completely reinstalled as well as all of the programs. Luckily project files, images and documents were backed up using Idrive.com.
- Earth Conservancy and the Huber Breaker Preservation Society became members of EPCAMR as a result of the 2 previous items.
- As a result of formatting between ArcGIS and Excel spreadsheets, several different tables were created to “help” collect the bottom elevations of collieries and average mine pool borehole elevations. Somehow the tables began having different values. Had to double check Roger’s notes to see which dataset was correct. The ArcGIS versions of the datasets were most correct and changes were made to this dataset while the others were deleted.
- Created a database of AMR Conference Exhibitors from 2002 to 2009 for Gwen Johnson, Foundation of Pennsylvania Watersheds, so she could send invitations to exhibit at the PA Watershed Summit.
- Met with Roger Hornberger, early in the month, to review documents that had been transcribed from his notes and continue to work on writing the Mine Pool Mapping Report. Began writing Part 3 which will spell out specific information on each mine pool based on current borehole water levels, information known about mines that have ceased pumping and things learned from the compiled GIS mapping, updating what was written by S. H. Ash in the early 1950s. It is difficult and tedious work, so far this has been written for all collieries and pools east of the Maple Hill Complex in the Western Middle Field.
- Worked on creating Enclosures C & D for the Environmental Assessment for the Hicks Creek Abandoned Mine Land Natural Stream Channel Design Project.
- EPCAMR Staff met with HBPS representatives and website designer to provide technical assistance as the [www.huberbreaker.org](http://www.huberbreaker.org) was imported into an easier format to manage in Net Objects Fusion Essentials, a “what you see is what you get” (WYSIWYG) website builder.
- Attempted to create another 3D video of the mine pools and structural contours in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field. There was a comment made about the aspect ratio being a little bit off when it displayed in the PowerPoint program. In fact, there is a problem with a “feet to meters” conversion in ArcGlobe. The surface DEM is in meters, while the other layers are in feet this condenses the aspect ratio horizontally approximately 3:1 exaggerating the vertical extent. Also, ArcGlobe is not displaying polygon shapefiles elevation information (option is grayed out), rather it is using an offset from a constant elevation. Cannot convert the DEM to feet and it would take too long to convert the others to meters. Tried stretching the video horizontally, but this could not be made permanent in the PowerPoint presentation.
- Lined up several OSM Mine Map Folios W-10G 00A-10 (12 maps), W-10G 00A-12 (14 maps) to try to ascertain the integrity of a barrier pillar that was between 2 mines. The mine maps showed a few small connections through the barrier pillar, but also confirmed a very definite divide caused by a fault. The OSM Mine Map folios have proven to be a very good tool for determining mine pool connections, but it takes a long time to georeference each folio map properly (usually about 15 minutes to ½ hour per layer, now that I am better at it).
- Had a discussion with Executive Director whether or not to change the barrier pillars types attribute to solid, semi-permeable and submerged in attempt to be clearer in how the barrier were acting today at current borehole water levels. The previous types were breached, unbreached, partially breached and unknown based on S. H. Ash reports containing altitude of effectiveness values.

- Received word that Roger Hornberger passed away. Roger was a mentor and had closely been working on the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative with EPCAMR staff. He will be greatly missed by all, especially by those who were involved in the Mine Pool Mapping Initiative for the Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields. He truly was a visionary for the project and provided so much guidance, mine map interpretation and report writing expertise. We plan to dedicate the report in his memory.
- Transferred approximately 2,000 EPCAMR Business contacts from Outlook to Google Mail in attempt to completely get away from the slow bulky Outlook 2007 on my desktop to a faster more streamlined and portable e-mail system complete with contacts and an integrated web-calendar that can be accessed securely through any computer with an internet connection. Right now EPCAMR is still trying the Google Mail system, but so far it is superior to the old system. I will be recommending this to other groups.
- Aided Jackie Dickman as she uploaded the new Earth Conservancy website built with Net Objects Fusion Essentials, a free WYSIWYG editor that is easy to use, relatively dynamic and has a short learning curve. Check out the new overhauled website at [www.earthconservancy.org](http://www.earthconservancy.org)
- Provided Tom Kashatus, Newport Township Community Organization, with the most up-to-date PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) project database. He wanted to know plans for reclamation of AML in Newport Township, Luzerne County.