

EPCAMR



ROBERT E. HUGHES, EPCAMR REGIONAL COORDINATOR
MONTHLY BOARD REPORT

MAY 2006

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LUZERNE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

- EPCAMR Program Staff conducted an AMD Watershed Tour with PA DCNR and 31 Hazleton Area's Drums Elementary School District students and 5 teachers
- EPCAMR Coordinator and Municipal GIS Outreach Technician, Rob Lavelle conducted another NFWF AML GIS Workshop in Black Creek Township, Luzerne County
- EPCAMR Coordinator and OSM/VISTA Watershed Development Coordinator attended the PA DCNR "Community Connections to Our Watershed Program" Student Presentations at the Friends of the Nescopeck State Park's Musto Environmental Education Center where we reviewed and evaluated 7 Luzerne County School Districts groups of 40 students, who presented on various water quality, historical events, non-point source pollution problems, and AMD issues and potential solutions for Luzerne County watersheds
- Co-coordinated the two-day "Digging Up the Wyoming Valley" Fossil Education Program with Pam Kattner-EPCAMR Environmental Education Intern, Luzerne Conservation District Staff, and the EPCAMR Program Staff where over 180 2nd graders from the Hanover Area School District
- EPCAMR Program Staff worked with the W-B Area Vo-Tech Machine Shop Class, Plymouth Township Planning Commission, OSM/VISTA, and local residents of the historic mining community of Avondale Hill to hang the Avondale Ballad Industrial Art Project on an old abandoned colliery bridge abutment along Avondale Hill Road, Plymouth Township, Luzerne County; Conducted a historic walk and talk about the Avondale Mine Disaster and the future preservation efforts that are planned for the site with the 12 students who worked on the project and their teacher, Mr. Gallagher, but had never actually seen the site first hand, until the very end of the project
- Presented an Innovative Design Award plaque at the West Side Tech School Board Meeting to Mr. Chuck Ghilanda and a few of his students from the Machine Shop Class who created and designed the first 20 cavity EPCAMR AMD Chalk Block that will be used by the Luzerne Conservation District and EPCAMR to promote the recycled iron oxide as a usable and fruitful by-product for the creation of chalk in our schools
- EPCAMR Program Staff and Luzerne Conservation District Staff conducted an AMD Watershed Tour of the Southern Wyoming Valley with nearly 80 5th grade students, 2 teachers, and 8 parents from the Dallas Area School District
- Completed EPCAMR Program 319 Work Plan for the PA DEP-BWM and submitted it for the FY06-07
- Worked with PEC's Karen Szwest and members of the Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition on developing a Program Agenda for the June 17, 2006 RIVERFEST on the Susquehanna River in the Wyoming Valley
- Worked with EMARR on an Environmental Education GIS Grant with the Hazleton Area School District

- Secured the Plymouth Township Historic Canal Park location secured for the June 17, 2006 Canoe Trip and Exhibits along the banks of the Susquehanna River; EPCAMR Program and LCD will set up exhibits and have outdoor environmental education activities for adults and youth alike as we have in years past in partnership with the Plymouth Township Planning Commission and Plymouth Township Local Governmental Officials
- Secured the Hayfield House at PSU W-B for the upcoming OSM/VISTA National Watershed Team Training on June 5-7, 2006; Finalized the agenda for the training, ordered t-shirts, ordered food, and secured the housing at the Nittany Woodlands Off-Campus Housing for the OSM/VISTAs and their supervisors
- Continued to participate in the planning discussions for the 2007 PAEE Conference that will be at the Ramada Inn, W-B
- Attended an Old Forge Borough Council Work Session with Rob Lavelle to present our initial findings and photo inventory of our stream walk along St. John's Creek and its tributaries and discussed some of the potential problems areas and solutions to those problems to the entire Council and members of the Old Forge Borough Planning Commission
- Introduced Devon Rother to her new summer position with the EPCAMR Program as the Anthracite Art Education Intern and developed a Work Plan, complete with Goals and Objectives for her OSM Summer Internship at the Luzerne Conservation District
- Attended the AMR Conference Planning Committee in State College and then attended the West Branch Symposium Task Force Meeting
- EPCAMR Program Staff set up many different Environmental Education Activities at the Mt. Carmel Elementary School, Mt. Carmel, Northumberland County for their Environmental Fair; **800** students came through and participated in our activities on AMD and Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- EPCAMR Coordinator and Rob Lavelle attended a meeting with Tim Holden, -Engineer for Pasonick Engineering, in Old Forge to walk a section of the St. John's Creek that they were looking for advice on considering for a wetlands mitigation project in the Old Forge Borough
- Began working on a **\$20,000** PA DEP Environmental Education Grant that would run through the Summer 2006-2008 and provided Josh with a draft copy of the Pre-Application Letter that was requested by the PA DEP EE Program by June 5, 2006;
- Closed out Project Earth PPL Grant with Hanover Area School District for the Fossil Box, "Digging Up the Wyoming Valley" Education Program