

EPCAMR



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MONTHLY BOARD REPORT - MAY 2006

HIGHLIGHTS

- The work days for the Avondale Community Projects began this month with the anchoring of the metal plaque. I have been planning this even since January. We had about 20 people volunteer to join us on the evening of 5/17 and a lot of work was completed ... even through a thunderstorm.
- PPL Susquehanna Riverlands Cleanup is another project I have been planning for several months and completed on 5/18 with 16 volunteers and the removal of a significant amount of trash. Several new partners were made for EPCAMR with this event. This is the first cleanup I have ever organized and everyone enjoyed themselves.
- Anne Daymut and I, co-chairs of the workshop sub-committee for the AMR State Conference, organized and held our first conference call meeting successfully. We presented our sub-committee recommendations to the steering committee.

WEEK OF MAY 6, 2006

- Assisted OSM/VISTA Watershed Team Coordinator and Team Leader in planning training for 6/5 – 6/7. Researched facilities for meeting, sleeping and eating. Visited several sites. Compared prices, details, and provided recommendations. Explored different entertainment ideas for an evening of the training.
- Provided a watershed tour for the Hazleton Area School District gifted high school students with 35 students and teachers.
- Created an analysis of the data received from the pyriteBAD workshop survey.
- Met with John Fridman and Ken Grecsek of the Susquehanna PPL Riverlands to plan final details of our Great PA Cleanup and Day of Caring project on 5/18. Explored the site on foot, with Ken.
- OFF 5/5.

WEEK OF MAY 13, 2006

- Contacted all volunteers for the Riverlands Cleanup. Obtained Day of Caring shirts for everyone and organized supplies.
- Traveled to Lehman Jr/Sr High School with Pamela Kattner, our EPCAMR Intern, to present the AMD Lesson Plan we created. We presented to 5 classes and 2 teachers with a total of 125 kids throughout the day.
- On 5/9 I traveled with Robert Hughes, EPCAMR Regional Coordinator, to Nescopeck State Park to attend student presentations for the Luzerne County Community Connections program.
- Attended the Nanticoke Conservation Club meeting on 5/11 to ask, with Perry Clay – director of the Nanticoke Housing Authority, for volunteers for our dumpsite cleanups to be held on 7/22 and 8/5.

- Attended the West Branch of the Susquehanna Symposium on 5/12 with Michael Hewitt, EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator, and Rob Lavelle, EPCAMR GIS Technician. Heard many presentations about passive treatment systems, the behavior of fish species to use different tributaries during their life cycles, and the state of the AML Reauthorization Fund.
- Led AMD tie-dyeing and fish print activities at the Nescopeck Spring Festival on 5/13 with Michael Hewitt and Pamela Kattner.

WEEK OF MAY 20, 2006

- Prepared for Pamela Kattner's 'Digging Up the Wyoming Valley' fossil program. Led some activities for the 75 visiting 2nd graders from Hanover Area Elementary School. Assisted with cleanup.
- Organized supplies, coordinated volunteers, and attended a community gathering on 5/17 to complete the abutment project on Avondale Hill. The metal plaque made by the Wilkes-Barre Area Vo-Tech students was anchored to the abutment. Weeds were pulled and a garden planted. Secured donation of two flats of annual flowers from O'Malia's Greenhouse in Wilkes-Barre.
- Traveled to the Wilkes-Barre United Way office to pick up shirts for the cleanup volunteers. Led the PPL Susquehanna Riverlands Cleanup on 5/18. Michael Hewitt, Rob Lavelle, and Devon Rother, EPCAMR Anthracite Art Intern, joined me. With 16 volunteers, we cleaned about 2 miles of roadside and adjoining woods and some riverside land on the east side of the river. We removed: 56 bags of trash, 7 tires, 220 pounds of metal, a 70 pound corrugated pipe, 6 carcasses, and a swing set.
- Coordinated a watershed tour of Avondale Mine sites for the Vo-Tech Students and assisted Robert Hughes in presenting on 5/19. Sixteen students and one teacher attended.
- Anne Daymut, PyriteBAD Steering Committee member, and I organized a conference call for the Workshop Sub-committee that we co-chair for the AMR State Conference.

WEEK OF MAY 27, 2006

- Provided directions and an area map for the OSM/VISTA training. Spent time conversing, coordinating, and answering questions with OSM/VISTA team members.
- Conducted Workshop Sub-Committee conference call with Anne Daymut. Group decided on workshops and recommendations to bring to the steering committee meeting later in the week on 5/25.
- Prepared for Pamela Kattner's second round of 'Digging Up the Wyoming Valley' fossil program and led, again, some activities for the 75 visiting 2nd graders from Hanover Area Elementary School. Assisted with cleanup.
- Met Robert Hughes, Bill Best, of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, and Art Bartotai on 5/23. There Art let Robert and I choose blocks of granite to use at the site of our Avondale projects.
- Drove with Mike Hewitt, Robert Hughes, and Devon Rother to PENN State on 5/25 for a steering committee meeting of the AMR State Conference. Here I presented the recommendations of the workshop sub-committee. Our group also attended a meeting of the West Branch of the Susquehanna Task Force.
- Provided an exhibit and hands-on activities at the environmental fair at Mount Carmel Elementary School on 5/26 with Robert Hughes and Mike Hewitt.

THRU OF MAY 31, 2006

- OFF 5/29 for Memorial Day.
- Led a game and role play for 60 5th grade students, 2 teachers, and 6 parent chaperones on 5/30 at the Dallas Elementary School watershed tour. Assisted Robert Hughes, Mike Hewitt, Devon Rother, and Leighann, LCD Intern, when needed.
- Created a flyer, made copies, and spent the evening of 5/30 with Devon Rother taking these door-to-door throughout the Avondale Hill Community. This announced dates of work days and the status of the many projects.
- Devon Rother, Leighann, and I traveled to various Wyoming Valley sites and collected AMD Sludge on 5/31. Devon will dry this sludge into pigment to use for her projects.