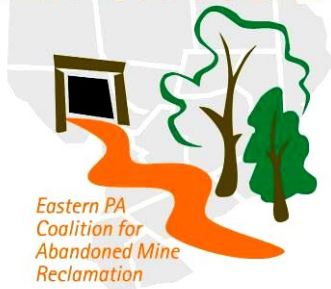


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

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May 2014 Progress Report

Education & Outreach

- Coordinated a Trout in the Classroom Program with Wilkes-Barre Area 5th & 6th Grade with **125** students at Frances Slocum State Park and did a Macro-Invertebrate ID Environmental Education Program
- Found out that the MRAB passed a SB 411 support letter unanimously, although EPCAMR was not there for the vote, although the Board was fully aware of our opposition to the Bill
- EPCAMR was featured on PA Outdoor Life performing a live macro-invertebrate assessment on the Lackawanna River just below the confluence with Leggett's Creek to showcase the comeback of the River and to promote the upcoming Lackawanna RiverFest 2014; Aaron Stredny, Luzerne Conservation District Watershed Specialist assisted EPCAMR under short notice when Mike became ill; <http://wnep.com/2014/05/25/lackawanna-river-water-quality/>
- Reviewed the details of the PA State Consortia Community of Learners Survey results and tallied everything in preparation for the upcoming PAEE EE Capacity Workshop on 5-30-14 in Pine Grove State Park; Made comments and edits to the survey tabs; Printed out the Worksheets on A4 poster paper for the Workshop with Mike; Received a completed Contact Directory detailing information for each of the Community of Learners from *Kacy Conley*, PSAYDN, one of our Co-Team Leaders
- Forwarded information to *Dvon Duncan*, Director of the Appalachian Energy & Environment Partnership on EPCAMR to see if they were interested in having us become a part of their Board to represent Northeastern PA, which isn't represented at all; EPCAMR had been integrally involved years ago when this organization's predecessor was the Eastern Coal Region Roundtable; <http://www.aeepartnership.org/>
- EPCAMR Executive Director took the lead on requesting assistance from several partners in the region that have worked with us on the Huber Breaker Preservation Society's Miner's Memorial Park on the former abandoned mine lands 3 acre parcel in Ashley, PA to nominate the 82 year old Chairman and Treasurer, *Mr. Ray Clarke* for a PEC NE Office Environmental Partnership Award for his lifelong volunteer contributions to the community of Ashley, his education of coalfield elementary, high school, and college students, the preservation of our Anthracite History, and for his incorporation of so many community partnerships and environmental projects at the site to raise funds, obtain grants, and the building of the Park; Submitted the nominations without his knowledge, in the hopes that he'd be surprised in the Fall when the announcements of the award winners are decided; Ray would join a long list of EPCAMR Staff and Board Members that have received this prestigious environmental recognition for our collective work in Northeastern and NorthCentral PA

Technical Assistance

- Provided *Geo Romolo*, a photographer from Canada, with a database of resources and publications on the Anthracite Mining Industry at his request
- Informed *Jeff McNelly-ARIPPA* that EPCAMR and WPCAMR have gotten the word out on the AMD-AML Mini-Grant Awards
- *Jolynn Young*, a Chemistry teacher at Leechburg Area High School, Armstrong County, PA made a request to order iron oxide for AMD tie-dyeing with her classes and Science Club for 100 students; Directed her to our EPCAMR Online Store; <http://epcamr.org/store/category/mine-drainage-products/>
- The Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (Commissions) respectfully requested the Executive Director's participation in a *State Wildlife Action Plan Revision Habitat Committee* to contribute to the revision of the 2005 State Wildlife Action Plan; EPCAMR's role will be to guide and provide recommendations on habitat approaches, threats and conservation actions to the State Wildlife Action Plan leads (Diana Day, PFBC; Cathy Haffner, PGC) and the State Wildlife Action Plan Steering Committee, comprised of Commission administrators; The Executive Directors of each agency will approve the plan prior to submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=622722&mode=2>
- OSM informed EPCAMR that version 15.2 of Global Mapper was just released and EPCAMR was provided a code under an Enterprise Agreement which includes a small number of LiDAR module licenses
- Grant Parker, Sales Accountant for Maker-Bot provided EPCAMR with a quote for a 3D Printer for a future grant that we'd like to pursue to get one to eventually print 3D Models of the underground mine pools in the EPCAMR Region; www.makerbot.com

Project Coordination

- Coordinated the ***Lee Park/CNJ-Buttonwood Illegal Dump Site Cleanup*** in Hanover Township, PA in partnership with the Hanover Township Neighborhood Crime Watch Association, PA DOT, and Hanover Township; 15 volunteers showed up and removed 2.5 Tons of trash and 14 tires in 3 hours
- Put a call out for volunteers for a Tree Planting on 5-10-14 from 9-12 at the ***Hanover #9 Abandoned Mine Site***, on Earth Conservancy property, in partnership with the PEC NE Office, Newport Township Community Organization, and the Earth Conservancy, along Kosciuszko Street, Nanticoke, PA; Coordinated the Tree Planting of nearly 30 large landscaped sized native trees along Espy Run in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed
- Submitted a Progress Report and Reimbursement for the ***Hicks Creek AML Natural Stream Channel Design Project*** through April 24, 2014 to our Project Officer, Dennis Palladino, for submission to the Growing Greener Grants Center for approval; Worked with Skelly & Loy to begin drafting up the construction bid package language in preparation for putting out the bid once the JP Application is approved by the PA DEP; Standard EJCDC Construction Form language will be utilized with special conditions for the payment of funds due to the way Growing Greener releases funds incrementally upon reimbursement so that no cash flow shortages occur for EPCAMR
- All the official paperwork on the PA DEP EE Grant was electronically submitted to EPCAMR for completion and our files for the ***AMD & Pottery Art Education Grant*** with the Greater Nanticoke Area Elementary Center; EPCAMR submitted it to the PA DEP EE Grant Center with fully executed signatures and an advance request for payment to begin the project

- EPCAMR is putting together a cleanup effort along **Line Street Illegal Dump Site Cleanup**, in Nanticoke, PA where there is an illegal dump site located within the Newport Creek watershed on Pollock Enterprises property; Cleanup will be coordinated with the City of Nanticoke, Pollock Enterprises, Newport Township Community Organization, Nanticoke Conservation Club, & Nanticoke Neighborhood Crime Watch Association for 6-30-14; Made a contact with Susquehanna Coal Company, *Joe Prochiak*, through *Duane Feagley*, PA Anthracite Council to reach the Land Manager for Pollock Enterprises
- EPCAMR went out and surveyed the Spring Run Concrete Culvert along S. Empire Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA to take pictures before putting together a planned **Spring Run Concrete Culvert Cleanup** on 7-14-14, in partnership with the City of Wilkes-Barre and Wilkes University; Coordinated with Greg Barrouk, from the City of Wilkes-Barre
- Worked with the Luzerne Conservation District's *Aaron Stredny*, Watershed Specialist, to plan for the placement of rip rap and rock energy dissipaters in three locations at the **Nockley's Tributary Stream Restoration Project** location in Wilkes-Barre/Hanover Township, PA

Conference Coordination, Training, Conferences, Workshops

- *Mahesan Bavan*, a Sri Lankan full-time research student at National University of Malaysia is interested in submitting a paper to the PA AMR Conference
- Submitted a proposal letter requesting the funding for **\$5000** to support the **16th Annual PA AMR Conference** to *John Stefanko*-PA DEP on EPCAMR Letterhead and copied the PA AMR Conference Committee and *Glenn Florence*-PA DEP, who is a Committee member
- Worked with a WorkGroup of State Consortia Leaders to put together a Panel Presentation Proposal for the NAAEE Conference in the Fall; PA's will focus on how far along our first year PA State Consortia Community of Learners have come along, entitled, **"First Year Crawling and Focused Momentum"**
- EPCAMR began setting aside requests for scholarship assistance that are coming in through e-mail to attend the PA AMR Conference from non-profits, Conservation Districts, and other approved reclamation-related organization across PA; Began further discussions on the implementation of the Silent Auction at the Conference; Continued working on registration process of conference attendees through the EPCAMR Online Store; Received word from the Foundation for PA Watersheds that EPCAMR was awarded a **\$1100** grant to cover the costs of the production of 200 DVDs of the Documentary Series 1 of WaterWise produced by WVIA
- Provided *Marianne Krasny*, Cornell University Principal Investigator for the proposed SESYNC Workshop with comments in response for request for assistance to improve the proposal language initially submitted to the reviewers

Community Volunteer Coordination

- *Jason Niznik*, Pittston, PA is interested in becoming a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR and has a background in photography; He's been photographing abandoned mine lands since he started photography; www.jasonhealeyphotography.com
- Worked with *Caitlin Dickson*, Bloomsburg University Senior, and soon to be EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Intern for the late Summer/Fall Semester 2014 on submitting her Internship Activity Description to the University to officially recognize her as an upcoming intern; Requested that she submit two paragraphs about herself to EPCAMR for inclusion in an upcoming news article on our website
- *Janette James*, Pawling, NY is interested in becoming a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR and also has experience in photography; EPCAMR is not sure at this time if she frequents PA or not and has followed up with her

- *Charles Hranek*, Johnson City, NY is also interested in becoming a Community Service Volunteer with EPCAMR and has a background in photography; He is willing to shoot photographs for EPCAMR and provide them to us for outreach and education purposes
- *Cameron Cox*, Nanticoke, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and has a particular interest in cleanups in the region
- *Gail Culver-Artley*, Hanover Township, PA signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and has a background in Accounting and Office Management
- *Elizabeth Rosser*, MountainTop, PA is interested in becoming a volunteer with EPCAMR and will be coming down for an introduction to our organization over the Summer 2014
- *Heather Moser*, Hazleton, PA works with **American Eagle Outfitters**, and is interested in developing a partnership with EPCAMR to provide us with T-shirts and employee volunteers for upcoming AMD Tie-Dye Workshops over the Summer; She is running some requests through her corporate office and will get back to EPCAMR; This could become an excellent partnership for when we are serving our underserved communities conducting environmental education and outreach programs; This connection was made thanks to our connections with **VolunteerMatch.org**
- *Patricia Borns*, Miami, FL, is interested in becoming a volunteer with EPCAMR and also has experience in photography and videography, however, distance, is obviously a limiting factor
- *Erica Perrin*, Wilkes-Barre, PA has signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and has an interest in cleanups and anything outdoors
- *Melvin Joseph*, has become a volunteer with EPCAMR through **Lowe's Transitional Work Solutions, LLC**, Program while he's on light duty processing EPCAMR's iron oxide for **20** hours a week until his physical therapy and clearances come through from Lowe's workman's compensation department
- *Judith Roth*, Scranton, PA is interested in becoming an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and Iron Oxide Processor
- *Brendan Bormes*, Clark Summit, PA has signed up to become an EPCAMR Community Service Volunteer and has an interest in ecological restoration; He has a degree from Bucknell University in Biology
- *Ky LaMarca*, MountainTop, PA is a 15 year old boy who is interested in volunteering with EPCAMR over the Summer and into the Fall 2014

EPCAMR Program Administration

- Reconciliation of our EPCAMR and PA Invest Accounts; Meeting with President-Bernie McGurl to sign checks
- *Carly Cirangle*, EPCAMR Human Resources Volunteer Coordinator supplied EPCAMR Executive Director with an instruction sheet for how to get into the OrangeHRM online database management system to update it