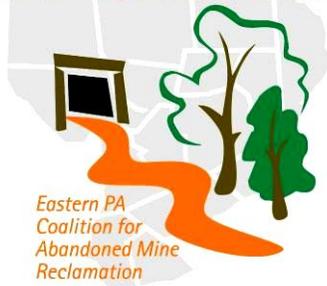


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation October 2009 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Created 1 layer & updated 3 layers for the Mine Pool Mapping Project
- Sent 1 RAMLIS CD and printed 2 maps for EPCAMR Partners
- Attended a Datashed Mtg., Pocono Forests & Waters Mtg., the PEC Banquet, 2 Mine Pool mapping Mtgs., and conducted a tie dye workshop
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org and www.datashed.org

Education and Outreach:

- Traveled to Alexandria, PA to meet with the Foundation for PA Watersheds, Stream Restoration Inc. and WPCAMR to discuss efforts to upgrade and promote the use of www.datashed.org.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Lehigh, PA to put on a tie dye workshop as requested by the Carbon County Pathmark Program and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Association.
- Posted articles to the EPCAMR homepage at www.orangewaternetwork.org, transferred files from www.epcamr.org and updated links to the files. Rearranged the homepage to keep EPCAMR's facebook page from loading on all pages but the homepage (this was drastically affecting the load time for the EPCAMR website). Also updated the instructions on the [AMD Tie Dye Handout](#) to include additional instructions to keep the majority of the pigment from washing out in the first wash.
- EPCAMR staff traveled to Thornhurst, PA to attend the Pocono Forests and Water Conservation Landscape Initiative meeting, an information meeting related to a DCED Block Grant that the PA Environmental Council (PEC) received. Submitted a proposal to this grant to continue mine pool mapping in the Northern Anthracite Field, specifically the Lackawanna River Basin.
- EPCAMR staff met with Wilkes University Volunteer Center Staff and VISTA to find out how they can help with our Illegal Dump Program Grant and other work that EPCAMR need. Wilkes VISTA has several volunteer hours that need to be put to good use.
- EPCAMR staff attended the PEC's 19th Annual Evening for Northeastern Pennsylvania's Environment. EPCAMR partners were given Environmental Partnership Awards: Catawissa Creek Restoration Association and Palmira Gregory Miller (Newport Township Community Organization) and Wildlands Conservancy.
- Aided Executive Director in completing 3 letters for support for projects in the EPCAMR Region.
- Sent a copy of RAMLIS V.9.0 to Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited.
- Reprinted a map of the water features and created map showing the 1 meter resolution color aerial photo within the Abrahams Creek Watershed boundaries for Eileen Cipriani, Abrahams Creek Watershed Association.

Technical Assistance:

- Continued digitizing 50 ft contours of the Mammoth Vein under the Panther Valley (northern tip of the Southern Anthracite Coal Field) as portrayed in the 2nd Geologic Survey as a part of the Mine Pool Mapping Project. The area is made up of 3 separate maps. Currently, contours from 2 of these maps are digitized with the use of R2V software.
- Compiled the reimbursement and reports for the month of September and submitted it to the 319 Program.
- Aided Jackie Dickman with the Earth Conservancy website and suggested that she use a free program, NetObjects Fusion, to manage her website. Their current method was a little time consuming and limited in capabilities.
- Performed regular maintenance on the EPCAMR Executive Director's computer to keep it error, virus and spyware free.
- Answered questions from Ann Lieu, Johns Hopkins Graduate Student, working on a project to see if there is a connection between Abandoned Mine Hazards and Human Health. This time she was asking about the Active Coal Mining Operations layer to see if these were completely separate from the Abandoned Mine Lands layers. The simple answer is that some are and some aren't.
- Spoke with Scott Van de Mark, PA Environmental Council Pittsburgh Office, about possibly more work that will be needed by them related to the Manure and Mineland Project. Currently they are working with Duquesne University for GIS mapping and analysis, but may need my expertise to guide the student projects.
- Created a Bike Route V layer and updated the Open Space and Historical/Cultural Resource Maps as a part of the Catawissa Rivers Conservation Plan work for the PEC Northeast Office.
- Compiled the supporting documentation and receipts for the Illegal Dump Grant reimbursement.
- Added some comments to www.datashed.org and e-mailed Stream Restoration Inc. to make some suggestions on formatting and information to make the website more attractive to watershed groups.
- Conducted a Mine Pool Mapping conference call with the Pottsville DMO Staff to get caught up with progress and what needs to be done next to move the project forward.
- Finished drawing mine pool layers based on DEP BAMR borehole water level elevations and the C-series Buck Mountain (and Mammoth in some areas) contours in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field. Where borehole elevations were not available, discharge elevations were used. Out of all 71 collieries, only 10 did not contain enough information to draw mine pools (Raven Run, Mid Valley (3), Morris Ridge, Sayre, Big Mountain, Maysville, Buck Ridge, and Neilson), either there was no discharge/borehole information or mines in the colliery did not penetrate the Buck Mountain seam. 12 mine pools were delineated in areas where mines were shown as being pumped in Ash Maps previously "blank" areas (Alaska, Reliance, Sioux, Potts, Locust Run, Miriam, Continental, Hammond, Packer #5, West Shenandoah, and Maple Hill).
- Researched and changed settings on the EPCAMR Main Line / Fax line that would optimize the use of the line. The fax and answering machines now operate seamlessly.
- Conducted a mine pool mapping meeting with Pottsville District Mining office staff to nail down the first ½ of the multi colliery hydrologic units for the Southern Anthracite Coal field (Stopped at the Otto Colliery, the last colliery still in the Schuylkill River Drainage). Delineated these boundaries in GIS layer to show collieries that are hydrologically connected.
- Continued to draw old workings and anticlines from the 2nd Geologic Survey. These layers help determine the interconnectedness of collieries and mine pools.
- Met with Carl Orechovsky, Old Forge Coal Mine Inc. President, to talk about their organization and possible grants to develop the Sparrowville Heritage Park. The park is to be developed on Old Forge Borough property (signed resolution from the borough) on a section of abandoned mine lands that currently isolates neighborhoods and contains several abandoned mine hazards. Old forge coal Mine Inc. would like to see this area developed into a network of trails that weave their way around reclaimed historical mining remnants. They would also like to

reconstruct an electric coal car system to show how coal was brought out of the slope. Their website www.oldforgecoalmine.com has an ever expanding collection of mining and railroad industry reports. Followed up to suggest a funding scheme for the park located along the clean rapids section of the Lackawanna River just above the Old Forge Borehole. The land is prime for a PA Fish and Boat Commission municipal fishing access area, and qualifies for Rivers Conservation Plan Implementation Funding from the PA DCNR. Not much money is available for cultural and historic preservation.