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April 2011 Progress Report

Highlights

- Provided continuing information, pictures, and links to Harvard graduate student of Landscape Architecture, Jessica Wolff, researching the Anthracite Coal Region and the Huber Breaker Park Project for master's thesis. Her final thesis presentation review will be Monday, May 16.
- Continued monitoring depths of boreholes in the Lackawanna River Watershed. Levels on almost all boreholes were 10 ft. higher than March recordings due to strong spring rain.
- Submitted grant application to Bank of America Corporate Foundation on behalf of Huber Breaker Preservation Society. Requested \$60,000 to further the park project and erect security fence and gate.
- Composed and submitted Quarterly Report to ACCT as part of VISTA responsibilities. Quarterly Reports summarize all VISTA activity for three month period and are submitted by ACCT to the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Attended lecture by Environmental Artist Pat Brentano at Marywood University. Used the opportunity to solicit artworks from the Marywood University art department and students.
- Submitted info to solicit artists for the Anthrascapes Auction to Wilkes University.
- Attended ACCT Spring Training Forum in Jackson's Mill, West Virginia, April 10-12.
- Attended conference call with the planning committee members for the AMR Conference.
- Gave a presentation on refining and marketing AMD, and a demonstration on chalk making at Spring Training.
- Trained fellow VISTAs Mike Bloom and Jacklin Steege in water monitoring at Espy Run. Both received their certifications.
- Presented for 1100 children at the Earth Day event organized by Vincent Cotrone of Penn State Extension Office, in conjunction with Nesbitt Park.

Education and Outreach

- Made a clickable button from the AMR Conference Logo to go on the EPCAMR webpage to provide direct link from EPCAMR.org to treatminewater.org. Program Manager finalized and inserted button and linked to treatminewater.org.
- Attended lecture by environmental artist Pat Brentano at Marywood University, and met with Dr. Linda Dugan Partridge, and Ann Marie Castelgrande, of the MU Art Department, distributing literature requesting artwork for the Anthrascapes Art Silent Auction fundraiser during the 15th Anniversary Dinner.
- Visited Wilkes University's Sordoni Art Gallery and distributed Call for Artists for Anthrascapes Silent Auction. Call for Artists asks for RSVP by May 30th if they plan to participate.
- Presented MACRO-MAYHEM at the Nesbitt Park Earth Day event for nearly 1,100 children from Wilkes-Barre Area and Wyoming Valley West Schools. Students learned about the importance of macro-invertebrate life as an indicator of the health of streams and rivers, and then could trace and cut out and color macros from the templates EPCAMR has created. Students not wishing to keep their macro creations hung them from trees along the bank of the Susquehanna, in a mini-demonstration of a full Tree Trout Environmental Education program, which will be presented to 5th graders from Kistler and Dan Flood Elementary students in May.
- EPCAMR provided professional training in water monitoring, macro-invertebrate identification and calculating stream flow velocity. Both Jacklin Steege and Mike Bloom were fully trained and received certification.

Professional Development

- Attended ACCT Spring Training in Jackson's Mill, WV. Each VISTA presented on a topic pertinent to their site's projects, and WCDC talked about collecting, processing, and selling iron oxide from AMD treatment facilities, as well as giving a demonstration on chalk making. While the shortest of the trainings, the structuring was the most effective schedule and VISTA presentations gave excellent opportunities to learn and network with one another. Received information on the current state of the ACCT Support Office, the Office of Surface Mining, and potential budget cuts and shortfalls for AmeriCorps and the VISTA program extending into 2012.

Technical Assistance

- Continued to assist Harvard Graduate School of Design student Jessica Wolff in researching and developing her master's thesis project. Ms. Wolff is working on designing an industrial tour of locations of importance throughout the Wyoming Valley, including the Huber Breaker, the Dorrance Colliery, the Fit-Rite (Empire) Silk Mill, the Murray Complex, the Avondale Mine Disaster Memorial Park, the Old Forge Borehole and more. The thesis will also incorporate developing renewable energy resources on AML and industrial sites. WCDC took pictures of the front of the Earth Conservancy/EPCAMR office building that Ms. Wolff will include in visual map that includes photos of important landmarks throughout the area related to the industrial tourism trip.

- Assisted HBPS in applying for a grant with Bank of America Corporate Foundation requesting \$60,000 to further the park project, with a primary initiative of having a fence erected to secure the property. A gate will be installed and the park will be open dawn to dusk, like many other county area parks, in order to prevent vandalism. The park project will be underway with fence painting and landscaping with the help of students from Wilkes-Barre Career and Technical School.

Coordination and Development

- Organized logistics for area OSM/VISTAs to travel together to attend mandatory ACCT training in West Virginia. WCDC drove and picked up Jacklin Steege in Eckley Miner's Village, Mike Bloom in West Hazleton, and Erin Pierce (Susquehanna Greenway Partnerships) in Dauphin, PA. Due to ACCT only providing one night of lodging and the long drive for the VISTAs in NEPA, Dale Freudenberger was able to provide a hotel room with funds through Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor for the Anthracite Heritage Alliance VISTAs. WCDC drove the three others to Weston, WV on Monday, April 11, and attended training April 12 and 13.
- Continued working on a contact database started by volunteer Pascalle Banacek and office assistant Monique McClendon in order to make a list of potential sponsors to approach about the 15th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner and 2011 AMR Conference. List was taken further to completion by Program Manager who merged his own existing contacts with the Executive Directors into one giant file for easy access and future use.
- Approached Dale Freudenberger about his extensive collection of mining artifacts to be potentially used as centerpieces for the 15th Anniversary Dinner in August. Dale will lend EPCAMR the use of Miner's hats, lunch pails, Davey Lamps and other historical pieces to be arranged in attractive vignettes in the centers of the tables. Ray Clarke was asked if he could provide flowers through his daughters florist shop, Clarke's Irish Imports to have an accent of color in the table arrangements as well.
- Contacted Eckley Miner's Village about getting a discounted price for attendees of the AMR conference on the Thursday and Saturday in August adjacent to the conference dates. Conference Attendees will have a reduced rate for the Museum Tour of half off the \$6 fee. The walking tour will be reduced to \$1.50 from \$2. The museum and walking tour would normally cost \$8, but will be available for \$4.50 on that Thursday and Saturday to visitors who tell them they are with the conference.
- Assisted with ARRI Tree planting in Schuylkill County organized by Schuylkill Headwaters Association on Abandoned Mine Lands slated for reclamation. The story was covered by WNEP and can be watched http://www.wnep.com/wnep-mon-restoring-old-coal-land-20110429_0,139116.story WCDC can be seen in the background of several shots in purple shirt and black pants.