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December 2010 Progress Report

Highlights

- Completed new brochure for the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, which includes an order form for the t-shirt and brick pavers fundraising efforts.
- Hosted graduate student researching the Anthracite Coal Region for reclamation projects.
- Scanned and edited photographs from past Huber Breaker Preservation Society events to be added to their website.
- Learned to use newly acquired free software for Cincopa account to organize and host photos.
- Continued monitoring depths of boreholes in the Lackawanna River Watershed, adding a 14th location.
- Contacted and met with two Wilkes-Barre area VISTA's from King's College and Wilkes University to collaborate on planning for a Martin Luther King Jr. day community event in January.
- Provided information to screen printer/print shop about the iron oxide to potential use as a printing ink pigment.
- Attended Huber Breaker Preservation Society Annual Christmas Party.

Education and Outreach

- Assisted with the planning and development of the DEP Environmental Education Grant. EPCAMR submitted a proposal for the **\$7500** grant in order to provide Act 48 training for 34 Science teachers in the Wilkes-Barre Area school district. The program would focus on the local watersheds and the origination of AMD and would provide a basis for the teachers to further educate their students on the curriculum "Nature Interrupted: The Journey of AMD."
- Assisted in the preparation and completion of a Dominion & Western PA Conservancy Grant for **\$2000** to conduct a Macro-Mayhem AMD Water Monitoring & Identification Program in Tioga and Lycoming Counties with 5 5th grade school districts impacted by AMD in partnership with the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association and the Lycoming & Tioga County Conservation Districts
- Assisted in the completion of a **\$6000** Coldwater Heritage Partnership grant for the Solomon Creek Watershed to conduct a preliminary assessment of the 18.1 square mile AMD impacted watershed with a focus on its tributaries that are on the Impaired Waters List and some tributaries that actually have native trout species that are living in isolation; Sought several letters of support for the project from the Earth Conservancy, Appalachian Coal Country Team, Huber

Breaker Preservation Society, Pennsylvania Environmental Council NE Office, and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

- Finalized a new and current brochure with updated pictures and information for the HBPS. The new brochure is a standard sized, two-sided tri-fold format that can be printed from any computer. The brochure includes a detachable panel that can be mailed in as an order and membership joining form. It is filled with historical information edited from the original brochure, new pictures of the breaker are included for an updated view – the last brochure consisted of four full-sized pages and was produced in 2000. New brochure was presented at the Huber Breaker Preservation Society’s Christmas Party.
- WCDC ordered and received art supplies to create portable backdrops for the AMD Avengers Vs. The Pollution Posse comedy skits. The backdrops will be painted on canvas panels 72” wide and 65” inches high, and hung by Velcro on folding garment racks. The canvas panels will have double sided imagery (the garment racks have wheels allowing for easy turning during the presentation) and will be easily removed by unfastening the Velcro and rolled up for transport. The garment racks are collapsible to fold flat and will fit in the back of a vehicle to be moved into and out of schools. The imagery depicted will be scenery taken directly from the AMD Avengers vs. Pollution Posse comic book and will be painted with quality Liquitex brand acrylic paints for durability. The two garment racks will have two panels of images that when placed side by side will create a larger picture. The separate racks will allow accommodation to larger or smaller venue sizes as well. The images depicted are from the link below:
<http://www.orangewaternetwork.org/index.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=7&page=5>

Professional Development

- Attended webinar on the Chesapeake Bay’s Fieldscope application. This GIS application is open for public use and can be utilized by educators and watershed groups throughout the Chesapeake Watershed. Hosted by the National Geographic Society, the application is dependent on the field research provided by watershed groups and students in order accurately chart the Chesapeake Watersheds influences. Powered by ESRI and ArcView, the site has many layers in which organizations can plug in their collected data. This website is a valuable tool for the any watershed in the Susquehanna basin and contains multitudes of information about the health of the rivers and and the bay in an easy, user-friendly format.; <http://chesapeake.fieldscope.us/>
- Viewed historical film “Stories from the Mines” presented at the HBPS Christmas Party. The film highlighted the corrupt infrastructure Mine politics, and the legal efforts of Clarence Darrow to bring justice to the workers, as well as in-depth depictions of the struggles they faced daily.

Technical Assistance

- Provided online promotion of the “AMD: An Epic Tale” Environmental Education film via Facebook, emailing to environmental educators and organizations and the ACCWT listserv.
- Printed and compiled a selection of materials released by the PA Fish and Boat Commissions’ PLAY journal (Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth) to be organized into binders for teachers participating in the Tree Trout programs later in Spring 2011. Executive Director will assist Watershed Community Development Coordinator in sequencing the information to be most beneficial for the teachers to add to their curriculum in preparation for the Tree Trout field trips and activities.

- Assisted Jessica Wolff, a Landscape Architecture student in the Harvard Graduate School of Design in gathering information for her master's thesis related to the reclamation and redevelopment of abandoned mine lands for economic benefit to the community. Ms. Wolff is creating a film for her presentation as well as plans for the reclamation areas to be viable sources of income to local municipalities and will hopefully generate revenue for the greater Anthracite Heritage Region. Her thesis will also contain history of the Anthracite Coal industry, its current state within the region, projected uses for the reclamation areas, and ways in which it will be affected by the current boom in the Natural Gas industry. WCDC lodged Ms. Wolff and provided her with information on the Wyoming Valley, took her for a tour of the Avondale Mine Reclamation Site the Memorial Garden (location of the 1869 disaster), two films -- Gaslands and Rural Impact, and connected her to the Schuylkill Headwaters Association's Megan Blackmon, and Wayne Lehman and Bill Reichert of the Schuylkill County Conservation District for more information on the Pottsville Area. WCDC also referred Ms. Wolff to the Anthracite Heritage Museum and McDade Park attraction for more historical information.

Organizational Capacity Building

- Contacted VISTAs Krista Hill with Wilkes University/The Lands at Hillside Farms and Jeffrey Bowlby with Kings College to plan an event for the AmeriCorps day of service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 17. WCDC met with Ms. Hill and Mr. Bowlby for a lunch conference to brainstorm possible activities to engage underprivileged youth from downtown Wilkes-Barre. The event will include help from OSM/VISTAs Mike Bloom and Mike Stanton, as well as **10 students** from Kings and **10-12** from Wilkes, and hopes to service **30-40** children.