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## March 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.
- Continued monitoring depths of boreholes in the Lackawanna River Watershed. Able to access all 14 for March 2011.
- Submitted grant application to the Captain Planet Foundation grant for the Solar Kiln EE program on March 30, requesting \$5,000.
- Met with Lorne Possinger, Regional Director for DCNR to discuss and plan for grant writing on behalf of the Huber Breaker Preservation Society.
- Made a Call for Artists and submitted to local area artist organizations to solicit iron oxide art works for the Anthrascapes Auction during 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.
- Composed brochure with further details on 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner to be distributed to potential sponsors.
- Attended conference call with the planning committee members for the AMR Conference.
- Attended monthly meeting of HBPS, including discussion of safety issues regarding the breaker and the surrounding area in the wake of a 12 year old girl being injured on the property.
- Made progress with the logistics of the design and Velcro attachment of the back drop canvas for the AMD Avengers Vs. Pollution Posse comedy skits.
- Met Jacklin Steege, new OSM/VISTA for the Anthracite Heritage Alliance, who began her year of service at Eckley Miner's Village at the end of February 2011.
- Major changes at Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT, formerly ACCWT) include the resignation of Program Coordinator, April Trent as of March 18, and Northern coal Fields VISTA leader Scott Fanello finishing his term March 3.

## Education and Outreach

- WCDC made a brochure detailing sponsorship levels, ticket prices, and the Anthrascapes Art Silent auction to accompany the invitation for the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Inaugural Fundraising Dinner for EPCAMR to be held August 4, 2011. The brochure is for interested parties to get further details on the dinner such as contact information to get tickets or to become a corporate or non-profit sponsor of EPCAMR.
- 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.

## Professional Development

- Organized a meeting opportunity Anthracite Heritage Alliance OSM/VISTAs, attended by Jacklin Steege, Mike Stanton, and former VISTA Megan Blackmon. Mike Bloom with GHACP and new VISTA with Susquehanna Greenway Partnerships Erin Pierce, were unable to attend. AHA region VISTAs attempt to meet and network on a semi-regular basis in order to establish relationships to better work together on regional products.
- The Appalachian Coal Country Team has been going through major changes as they have lost several VISTAs as they completed their year of service, and have not been replaced. This includes Northern Coal Fields VISTALEADER Scott Fanello. All ACCT VISTAs are currently under leadership by Shannon Philbin, VISTALEADER for the Southern Coal Fields. Nate Johnson, current Staff Support for OSM/VISTAs is doing the monthly check-in calls for the AHA VISTAs. April Trent, Program Manager, put in her letter of resignation on March 7, her final day being March 18. There has been no word of a replacement for the Program Manager position. ACCT launched its new website at the beginning of the March, which can be viewed at [www.coalcountryteam.org](http://www.coalcountryteam.org). Each site location has a “program page” describing the roles of the VISTA and the nature of the work done by the organization. EPCAMR’s page can be found through Our Sites, Pennsylvania, at <http://coalcountryteam.org/index.cfm?PageID=63>

## 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.
- WCDC finished editing and consulted with Executive Director for final approval of the Solar Kiln Environmental Education program in order to submit to Captain Planet Foundation requesting a \$5,000 grant. Grant was submitted March 30, but announcements will not be made for more than 90 days for this round of grant submissions.

- WCDC began working with Ray Clarke to submit a grant application to Bank of America on behalf of HBPS. HBPS will use the \$10,000 requested to advance their Memorial Park Project. Ray is currently crunching numbers and consulting with the engineer who designed the park to get all the information necessary for the online application.
- WCDC and Ray Clarke met with Lorne Possinger, Regional Advisor for DCNR at the Beltsville State Park office in order to find out what steps HBPS would need to take to prepare an application for the Community Conservation Partnerships Program grants. HBPS was not able to apply for the Spring 2011 deadline of March 15, but will be able to apply in 2012 with matching funds awarded from other grants and through fundraising efforts by the HBPS.

### **Coordination and Development**

- WCDC attended HBPS meeting on Tuesday, March 15. The meeting was in conjunction with an educational presentation on Coal Mining History for teachers given by Robert Wolensky, with the help of two members of the Eckley Players, who played the part of Mother Jones and a Coal Mine Owner for the presentation. HBPS discussed safety issues involving the Breaker in the aftermath of the injury of a 12 year old girl who had a fall of 40 feet somewhere within the Breaker property. The neighborhood report is that she broke her pelvis and both hips as a result of the fall and will have extensive medical treatment. At this time, no legal actions against property owner are known. Ray Clarke of HBPS has posted “No Trespassing” signs around the perimeter of the property, and there have been others posted by “Chapter 11 trustee” at the back entrance that crosses the bridge.
- Developed a Call for Artists and emailed it to the Wyoming Valley Arts League, Arts YOUiverse and Kathleen Godwin, and the Artists For Art (Afa) Gallery in Scranton. WCDC will attend a lecture by environmental artist Pat Brentano at Marywood University on Tuesday, April 5, in order to make more artist contacts and network to promote the Anthrascapes Silent Auction. WCDC will also contact Luzerne County Community College, Wilkes University, Kings College to distribute the Call for Artists.
- Organized logistics to travel to the Appalachian Coal Country Team’s Spring Training Forum in Jackson’s Mill, WV. Anthracite Heritage Alliance VISTAs Michael Bloom, Erin Pierce, Jacklin Steege and Wren Dugan will travel from NEPA to Weston, WV on Monday, April 11. Training sessions begin at noon on Tuesday, April 12, but with the long drive (6 hours from Wilkes-Barre), the AHA VISTAs will travel the day before and stay in a motel Monday night, provided by Dale Freudenberger, courtesy of Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. WCDC will be driving and picking up Jacklin in Eckley, Mike in West Hazelton, and meeting Erin Pierce at a park and ride in Dauphin, PA. For training, each VISTA is required to do a presentation on a subject related to their service location. WCDC will present on using iron oxide for arts and crafts and how it is sold through EPCAMR.