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May 2011 Progress Report

Highlights

- Gave Tree Trout program environmental education field trips for Kistler and Dan Flood Elementary 5th graders.
- Presented at Wilkes University Vegetarian Day event on promoting EPCAMR internships.
- Gave tour of Lackawanna Valley mining sites for New Jersey Homeschooler group.
- Helped with clean up event in Kocher Park, Columbia County for AmeriCorps Week with other AHA OSM/VISTAs.
- Attended Fine Arts Fiesta, Wilkes-Barre, and recruited artists to donate work the Anthrascapes Art Silent Auction.
- Attended Project Learning Tree Environmental Education training at Nescopeck State Park.
- Attended EPCAMR Quarterly Board Meeting.
- Provided continuing information, pictures, and links to Harvard graduate student of Landscape Architecture, Jessica Wolff.
- Gave a tie-dye workshop at the Bear Creek Camp for a family event.

Education and Outreach

- The Kistler Elementary Tree Trout Program Field trip took place the week of May 2- 6. EPCAMR hosted approximately 140 children in the Solomon's Creek Watershed to participate in macro-invertebrate collection and identification, stream habitat assessment and water monitoring chemistry. WCDC assisted students with collecting macros from their nets and placing them into white containers filled with water for identification. Students got to witness firsthand the water chemistry and existing flora and fauna of identifiable habitats in their own community. Students were also taken to the tour the Dundee Wetlands and Treatment system, the Askam Borehole, and the Honey Pot Discharge in Nanticoke on a second day of field trip outing. The fifth grade was split into 2 groups of approx. 70 kids each, and went on 2 half day

excursions with EPCAMR. The Dundee tour was cancelled due to rain for one group, and rescheduled for June 6.

- Dan Flood Elementary 5th graders had an opportunity at water sampling, macro-invertebrate identification, and habitat identification at the Mill Creek area near Mohegan Sun Arena. The Dan Flood students had great success in catching macro-invertebrate species in the relatively clean Mill Creek waters.
- Attended and presented display at Wilkes University Vegetarian Day event for Earth Week. Solicited potential interns and distributed information to contact Executive Director if interested in a position. Even was planned by VISTA Krista Hill of Wilkes U and the Lands at Hillside Farms and included a free cookout for students of vegetarian fare.
- WCDC attended the Wilkes-Barre Fine Arts Fiesta event on May 21 to meet artists and distribute information about participating in the Anthrascapes Art Silent Auction fundraiser to be held during the 15h Anniversary Dinner. WCDC was able to secure three artists to participate in the auction, and will be mailing iron oxide to them at the beginning of June.
- A tour of the Lackawanna Valley including measuring the Taylor borehole, water sampling above and below the Old Forge borehole discharge in the Lackawanna River, and a visit to the Aylesworth Creek ALD Treatment System. Students collected and identified macro-invertebrates in Aylesworth Creek to determine success of the treatment system. **15 students** and **5 adult** chaperones participated in the field trip, which was lead by EPCAMR and Alana Roberts of PPL and Lackawanna County Conservation District Watershed Specialist Cheryl Nolan.
- Gave a tie-dye workshop for more than **30 children** and parents at the Bear Creek Nature Camp on Sunday, May 1. The event was organized by Karen Gower, the Environmental Education Specialist for the camp, and she invited EPCAMR to do an activity for a Family Fun Earth Day event. Executive Director, his son, Dawson, and WCDC erected a presentation table with information about AMD and fossils and led the tie-dye workshop.

Professional Development

- Attended Project Learning Tree environmental education training seminar at Nescopeck State Park. The training included many activities for children to learn about and identify native plants, trees, insects, amphibians and their egg masses in ponds and streams, reptiles, habitats, tree ages, etc. A highlight of the training was a nature walk that included spotting an extremely rare Pink Lady Slipper growing in the wild of Nescopeck Park. A member of the orchid family, the flower is endangered and protected.

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. Her thesis presentation will take place May 16, and she will visit EPCAMR with a follow up meeting later in June. Ms. Wolff will also provide much of her data, maps, display materials for EPCAMR.