AMD&ART

ALLEGHENY HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Creating Community Assets... ***Volume I, No. II - March 1997***

Vintondale Meeting a Huge Success!

Welcome, everyone, to the second edition of AMD&ART! For those of you who haven't heard, the AMD&ART Project held a public meeting in Vintondale on February 11th, to work with the community in planning and designing our pilot project, which will be built there. We were amazed at the turnout of 60 people, including a WTAJ-TV 10 news crew and representatives from the Indiana Gazette and the Nanty Glo Journal (the meeting was also announced in the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat).

Even more exciting, though, was the broad-based engagement in the design process. AMD&ART team members Allan Comp, Bob Deason, and Stacy Levy *(see our Team Resume, page 3)* all spoke, and then the meeting "broke" for coffee. During the break the three speakers were stationed around the room next to wall-sized maps of the Vintondale treatment area. The attendees were invited to gravitate to the speaker of their choice and make their ideas and concerns known by actually *writing on the maps* themselves. The format worked wonderfully, and people mingled, scribbled on maps, exchanged ideas, talked to AMD&ART people, and generally got involved.

The result was a priceless batch of first-hand information – a community-driven design for a new public asset in Vintondale. Plans were made for a return meeting to review a final plan. Thanks, Vintondale, for demonstrating your support so wholeheartedly!

AMD&ART

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AMD&ART is...

AMD&ART is an innovative approach to the problem of acid mine drainage (AMD) in southwestern Pennsylvania. AMD is a massive infusion of poison in our streams that leaves the tell-tale orange stains and dead waters so familiar to this region. For the scientist, this is a problem that can best be solved with passive approaches that produce clean water and healthy streams. For the historian, AMD is the result, not of purposeful evil, but of earnest efforts by hard-working people to make a living, create a better life, and help build the nation, an effort that unintentionally produced a problem for succeeding generations and that is now a challenge for our own generation. And for the artist working within all these disciplines, AMD creates the opportunity for large-scale environmental installations that can enliven, educate, entertain, and engage the generations that today enjoy the results, and suffer the scars, of the nation-building that caused this problem.

Accordingly, AMD&ART is a collaborative team of artists, scientists, and historians, working to involve communities in their own solutions, so that, together, we can transform the liability of AMD into assets for these communities. What kind of assets? A system of AMD remediation/environmental art parks that will not only treat the water, but will also provide a place to reflect and to play, while offering a forum in which to reinvent the way we think about mining history. In the context of healing

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Project Sites Fit Into Place

To date, the AMD&ART team has selected three sites as stages in a national demonstration project: **Vintondale, the Hughes Borehole, and the Dark Shade Watershed**. Because these sites are to be used in combination, it was critical that they fit together like puzzle pieces, forming an integrated whole. Here's how it works!

Vintondale
Pilot Project - Our Chance to Show Community & Design Advantages

Hughes Borehole
Larger Discharge, Including Significant Educational Element

Dark Shade
Largest Scope - Deals with an Entire River Basin

From the AMD&ART Newsroom:

The AMD&ART Project will be featured in the Public Art Review, the national magazine for public art in America. The four-voice article, written by team members Allan Comp (history), Bob Deason (science), Julie Bargman and Stacy Levy (art), and Blacklick area community activists Jim and Laurie Lafontaine, provides a great overall view of AMD&ART. So keep an eye on the Public Art Review for this exciting article.

Team Artists Michael Oppenheimer and Angelo Ciotti will jointly teach a model-building class at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. The class will prepare models for the Hughes Bore Hole and Dark Shade Watershed projects, to be used in future AMD&ART presentations and design work. Way to go, Michael and Angelo, and thanks to your students in advance!

Team Artist Brenda Brown has submitted her initial idea for the Dark Shade Watershed, entitled *AMD Treatment, Interpretation, Art and Design (A Work in Progress, 1996 -)*. Brenda's work introduces the reader to the watershed, using scores of color pictures augmented by descriptive text. Also, the booklet unveils Brenda's model (brainstormed with teammate Angelo Ciotti) for treating a non-point source discharge at the top of the watershed. The intriguing design makes reference to local history - the discharge is very close to Forbes' Trail, which was surveyed by George Washington in 1753. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

The Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP) has pledged $1000 toward our Hughes Bore Hole Project, to be delivered when we achieve our first round of major funding support, which will go toward building the Vintondale project and planning Hughes. SCRIP is a local watershed group involved in AMD treatment, and this newsletter is also going out to their readers as a special insert. Thanks, SCRIP!

(AMD&ART is..., continued from page 1)

waters, we can also heal the heritage of a region that is proud of its fathers and their accomplishments, yet pained by the environmental degradation which has been the cost of these achievements.

The design for each park will be different - based on the quality and severity of the AMD discharge and related treatment requirements; the site's existing landforms, artifacts, and cultural and natural history; and most importantly, the ideas, needs, and desires expressed by people from the affected communities. We believe that this system of parks will serve as a national demonstration project, offering a new kind of approach to AMD remediation in the entire Appalachian coal region. Through combining art, science, history, and community involvement, we can build places that will delight resident and visitor alike. And in so doing, we will have built a new and larger sense of the possible, a renewed bond of common heritage and common commitment to the future.

THE AMD&ART TEAM

T ALLAN COMP, PH.D. - *Manager for Training and Special Projects, Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation (AHDC); Hollidaysburg, PA.* Combining skills in economic history and the history of technology with experience in historic preservation planning, non-profit management and private-sector development, Dr. Comp also serves as the AMD&ART Project Director.

BOB DEASON - *Partner, EarthTech, Inc., Consulting Scientists and Engineers; Somerset, PA.* Bob is a hydrogeologist involved in design and construction management of mitigation wetlands and wetlands for treatment of AMD.

JULIE BARGMAN - *Landscape Architecture Consultant; Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Virginia; Charlottesville, VA.* Julie is widely respected for her rigorous design as well as her interest in applying progressive design principles to industrial waste sites.

STACY LEVY - *Founder and President of Sere Native landscape Restoration Ltd.; State College, PA.* Stacy is a sculptor whose work specializes in making apparent what is not readily visible in nature.

MICHAEL OPPENHEIMER - *Public Artist/Consultant. Research fellow at the Studio for Creative Inquiry, Carnegie-Melon University; Pittsburgh, PA.* Michael has worked with fellow Hughes Teammate Peter Richards on the innovative Byxbee Park project, the huge landfill-turned-art-park in Palo Alto, CA.

PETER RICHARDS - *Director of Art Programs, The Exploratorium; San Francisco, CA.* The Exploratorium is considered to be the world leader in hands-on science exploration. Peter's work is often a celebration of a particular place or situation and encourages people to notice the special things in their surroundings that are often ignored.

BRENDA BROWN - *Visiting Scholar at the University of Illinois' Department of Landscape Architecture; Champaign, IL.* Holding advanced degrees in both sculpture and landscape architecture, Brenda also serves as committee chair for the catalog and exhibit, *Eco-revelatory Design: Nature Constructed/Nature Revealed.*

ANGELO CIOTTI - *Visiting Professor, National Academy of Arts and Designs; Beijing, China.* Angelo is a professor of art whose work in coal mining sites and other areas is well known in Pennsylvania.

ROB MCCOMBIE - *AMD&ART Project Coordinator; Altoona, PA; AmeriCorps member through the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps.* Rob is a technical writer involved with the research and planning of environmental projects in Southwestern Pa.

JOHN H. TURNER - *AMD&ART Project Coordinator; Altoona, PA; AmeriCorps member through the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps.* John is a recent B.A. recipient from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and he works on public relations for the project..

ROBERTA MOORE - *MFA Photography Student at Penn State; State College, PA.* Roberta is our very talented team photographer.

LILY YEH - *Executive Director, Village of Arts and Humanities in North Philadelphia. Professor of Art and History, University of Arts; Philadelphia, PA.* A remarkable community collaborator, Lily serves as the deep conscience of AMD&ART.

This project is sponsored by the Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation, the private non-profit outgrowth of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, which works to enhance historic, recreational, and cultural resources within the region as focal points for cultural tourism, economic development, and community improvement.

Additional funding is being provided by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Interdisciplinary and Visual Arts programs; STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, Carnegie Mellon University; and EarthTech, Inc.

This newsletter is based in part upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service under AmeriCorps Grant No. 94ASCPA0390501. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation for National Service or the AmeriCorps program.

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Eliza Furnace in Vintondale c.1900. Photo taken from A Master Plan for the Eliza Furnace, prepared by Indiana County Parks and funded by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission.

From the AMD&ART Quote Book

"If the number of people in attendance and the enthusiasm expressed is any indication of how successfully a proposed AMD remediation project will proceed, then the project should be a huge success."

- **William L. Martin**, Bureau Chief, Nanty Glo Journal, on the Vintondale meeting.

"The (project) designs will require good science, good history, and good art, which at this level are approximately the same thing."

- **Bob Deason**, AMD&ART scientist, Partner, EarthTech, Inc.

- A Reminder -

Please remember that we are always looking for letters of support from groups and individuals. Every letter we get strengthens our grant applications, so your letter will make a difference, too! Also, if you are involved with any organizations, from rod and gun clubs to churches to environmental groups or Rotary clubs, please think about asking your group to help us out as well. Thanks!

One Last Note:

Special thanks to the National Wildlife Habitat Council and the Cambria County Conservation District. Both groups recently hosted presentations by AMD&ART. Interested in having us come talk to your group? Just give us a call!