AMD&ART

ALLEGHENY HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRAA! Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance

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AMD&ART Awarded $250,000 EPA Grant

At a press conference held March 22, Mr. Brad Clemenson, of Congressman John Murtha's office, announced that AMD&ART will be awarded the $250,000 Sustainable Development Challenge grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for which it applied in August. Of the 117 applications sent into EPA Region 3 (the MidAtlantic states), AMD&ART was one of five programs selected.

Men at Vintondale
Photo courtesy of Denise Weber

The EPA Sustainable Development Challenge grant program stems from the presidential report "Reinventing Environmental Regulation," and "challenges communities to invest in a sustainable future that links environmental protection, economic prosperity and community well-being."

"This is by far the largest grant in EPA Region III, which says to me that EPA recognizes that what we're doing here is developing a new paradigm for how to deal with abandoned mine drainage," said Jeanne Gleason, executive director of the Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance and AMD&ART partner. Not only does this award constitute a major vote of confidence from the EPA, but makes possible the

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A Word from the Project Director

Dear AMD&ART Friends and Supporters:

1998 began with incredible promise—a $250,000 EPA grant, positive feedback from the PA DEP in Harrisburg to fund the Vintondale treatment site, and two meetings between the major players at the Hughes site and the Dark Shade Basin. But these are only the first steps in what will prove to be a banner year for AMD&ART.

This spring we are writing grants to move ahead at Hughes with technology that may change the face of AMD remediation in Appalachia, and for Dark Shade where we will restore an entire watershed. And this summer—just a couple months away—should witness our groundbreaking in Vintondale!

Three years of hard work and dedication by numerous individuals and organizations have made possible this long-awaited event, and I wish to thank everyone who has had the vision to believe in AMD&ART and our philosophy.

—TAC

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O.S.M. Funds 3 Initiatives

The Office of Surface Mining, an agency within the Department of the Interior, recently agreed to provide funding for three initiatives which will benefit not only AMD&ART, but a host of watershed organizations.

- *Alternative Approaches and Funding Sources Resource Manual*—This summer we will develop a guide book in layman's language, about approaches and potential funding sources beyond the scope of traditional environmental funders. After this research is compiled, it will be made available to watershed organizations that practice an interdisciplinary approach to acid mine drainage remediation. We are happy to welcome Alex Rogers, a Ph.D. student at the University of Texas in American Studies on board this summer to work on this manual.

- *Economic and Community Impact Study*—Working in partnership with the Center for Regional Analysis within the Institute for Public Policy at George Mason University, this grant provides the initial funding for a comprehensive study of the worth of AMD&ART sites within nearby communities and the region. Fields of study will include both the economic impact from increased tourism and saved costs for water treatment, and non-tangible benefits such as increased community activism and increased recreational space.

- *The Effects of War-Time Production on the Region*—This project will studies the specific impacts of American armed conflict—particularly the World Wars—on the coal industry in Cambria and Somerset Counties. Theresa Macedo Pool, a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan in American Studies will soon be a familiar face in our site communities as she writes this history.

EPA Grant

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leveraging of monies from other entities. AMD&ART will use funds from this grant over a three-year span for costs at all three sites. Approximately 80% of the grant will go towards specific site work, such as surveying, the sponsorship of community meetings, purchase of building materials, and rental of earthmoving equipment.

AMD&ART Project

How to Reach Us

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By Decree of Atlantic Bell, we have a new area code. Sorry for the inconvenience.

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(724) 329-1561 fax
nrhp@hhs.net
www.allegheny.org/amdandart/
(up and running by June)

good reading

After many long nights and countless revision, *AMD&ART: a new partnerships initiative for AMD remediation and community enhancement* is finally roaming loose in public. This booklet is our attempt to melt down all of AMD&ART's goals, plans, maps, bios and partners, etc., into a format that won't cause permanent injury if you drop it on your foot. Our first printing is in circulation, and we anticipate a second printing early this summer; however, if you would like to peruse these pages sooner, please see our new website at www.allegheny.org/amdandart/, or contact Shelbie Knox at the AMD&ART office, and she will spirit you an unbound copy. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Vintondale
pilot project moves closer to reality

Boro. Council Donates Treatment Site

By unanimous vote, the Vintondale Borough Council agreed in April to donate the land on which the treatment system and wetlands will sit to a local land conservancy, so that the system will be protected and maintained in perpetuity. This grant will encompass approximately 17 acres, while the 17½ acre Community Uplands will be retained by the borough.

PA DEP and AMD&ART Work Towards Treatment System

Concerted efforts between PRAA, AMD&ART, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Harrisburg are finally paying off, as the State comes closer to pledging support for the treatment system (discharge pipe, vertical flow ponds, settlement ponds, and clarification marsh) for the Vintondale site. Currently the DEP is reviewing engineering drawings completed by EarthTech, Inc., and recently visited the site.

State funding will be used for materials and construction.

VINTONDALE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The winter offered no respite for the AMD&ART team in Vintondale:

- Julie Bargmann (team artist) produced a planting plan for the entire site. The success of her efforts to translate the team vision onto paper were confirmed when a forester glanced at the plan and exclaimed, "the plantings along the treatment system go from red to yellow to blue and green—like the water!"
- Bob Deason (team scientist) and his colleagues at EarthTech, Inc. completed preliminary engineering drawings which show the locations of the berms and earthworks within the site. These drawings were funded with $2000 from the **Office of Surface Mining** and equal generosity from the **Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance**, and are now at the State D.E.P. for review.
- Allan Comp (project director) and Jeanne Gleason (PRAA partner) have doggedly pursued funding sources to launch construction.

Recently, AMD&ART received nearly 200 trees from PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as part of the Project ReLeaf riparian buffer zone program. Our vegetation includes silver maple, red maple, pin oak, and black chokeberry. We also recieved a $3000 grant from the Bureau of Forestry thanks to the effort of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance and Congressman John P. Murtha.

Public Park Meetings

More than thirty Vintondale residents came to the first *park design meeting* on February 10, and twenty returned for a follow-up meeting on May 7.

In February, a 1½ hour dialogue sprang up about the Community Uplands, facilitated by Dave Sewak, of the Southwestern Pennsylvnian Heritage Preservation Commission. The audience was enthusiastic about a multi-purpose sports field to replace the town ballfield that has been cut down for flood control. Also suggested were picnic pavilions, a parking lot for elderly and handicapped access, restrooms, a volleyball court, horseshoe pits, a snack bar, and a children's play area, along with a walking trail connected to the Ghost Town Trail and a nature area.

At the second meeting, residents prioritized the park components, and discussed volunteer opportunities, including pavillion building by the V.F.D. and site work by the BVHS National Honor Society. Now the plan has been sent to team artists Julie Bargmann and Stacy Levy to design the recreational components within the context of the landscape. By October, when grant applications are due, the Vintondale AMD&ART Community Uplands will be ready to go!

104(b)(3) DEP AMD Grants

On March 10th, partners involved in the Hughes Bore Hole and Dark Shade Sub-basin remediation efforts gathered to reaffirm their commitments to these projects and to strategize for the future (*see page 6*). An April deadline for DEP **104(b)(3)** AMD remediation grants provided the impetus for these meetings; these grants fund technology demonstration projects and watershed assessment projects—grants seemingly tailored for AMD&ART's second and third sites. Both the Hughes technology demonstration and the Dark Shade Watershed Assessment projects requested $35,000 each.

- The Hughes grant is sponsored by the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance, the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy and AMD&ART.
- The Dark Shade application is sponsored by the K-CRBA, the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, and AMD&ART.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

*The AMD&ART Project is grateful to the **Allegheny Ridge State Heritage Park** and **Mr. John Turner** for their help and support with the Hughes project. John, former AMD&ART Project Coordinator, is now a Team CIVIC AmeriCorps member working for the ARHP on trail development along the Allegheny Ridge. One of his major projects is the Mainline Trail, which will connect Cresson with St. Michael. Because this trail will incorporate the Hughes Bore Hole site, John has graciously accepted to lead the AMD&ART Hughes effort this year. Already he is working on land ownership issues, technology issues, and he authored the Hughes 104(b)(3) grant application. Thanks for staying on the team, and for all your great work, John.*

Hughes News

HUGHES CHARETTE

Sunday, March 23, was a busy day for the Hughes team. In from San Francisco for the weekend, artist Peter Richards joined Pittsburgh-based artist Michael Oppenheimer, scientist Bob Deason and historian/Project Director Allan Comp in a day-long team design charette for the bore hole site. Surrounded by mine maps, site maps and surveys, they refined their brainstorming and sketches into a conceptual drawing which provides a basic model for the site. The "shield"—the acres of iron oxide which immediately surround the bore hole—will be left in its current state, so that visitors can witness the environmental effects of AMD. The team envisions an orientation station nearby to clue in visitors to what they are viewing, and wooden boardwalks that will transverse the shield, mirroring the pattern of the mine tunnels underground. Beyond the horizon of the shield will be the treatment site. The Mainline Rail-Trail will provide access to the site, while visitors will be able to leave the bike path and wander on foot through the wetlands on raised berms. Benches will allow bird-watchers, nature-lovers and tired bikers/pedestrians to rest amidst the cattails. The Team also scouted locations for a remote monitoring station, so that in the future the Hughes site can educate both local students, and students around the world via the Internet.

New AMD Technology

A day of design was followed by a site visit to the Bore Hole with geochemist Roy Blickwedel and engineer Paul Hagerty. These men work with Advanced GeoServices, Inc., an engineering firm based in Chadd's Ford, PA, which is interested in demonstrating their Intensive Sulfate Reduction (ISR) system at the site. This system is a 'vertical' version of the conventional anaerobic wetland, allowing effective passive treatment to occur in a fraction of the land area otherwise required. Advanced GeoServices currently operate a successful system at a Missouri lead-zinc mine, and is eager to move into coal mine drainage.

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I.S.R. System

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The first step in this process will be column testing, where tests in the lab will determine what design modifications will be necessary to successfully neutralize the discharge. Next, a pilot system will be constructed on-site to test the lab results in the actual setting. The results gleaned from the pilot-scale system will then be used to implement actual full-scale treatment. Once in place, the system will require low maintenance, which can be handled locally.

AMD&ART and Advanced GeoServices are very excited about this partnership, for if the technology is successful at Hughes, this project will provide a highly visible demonstration of space-saving technology that may change the way AMD is treated in Appalachia.

Also along on the Hughes site walk was Brent Conrad of Vivicon Productions, who filmed the visit. From his time with us that morning, he produced a short documentary video about AMD&ART and the Hughes Bore Hole project which has already helped us to convey the visual impact of the site to potential funders. We look forward to working with Vivicon in the future.

Dark Shade Corner

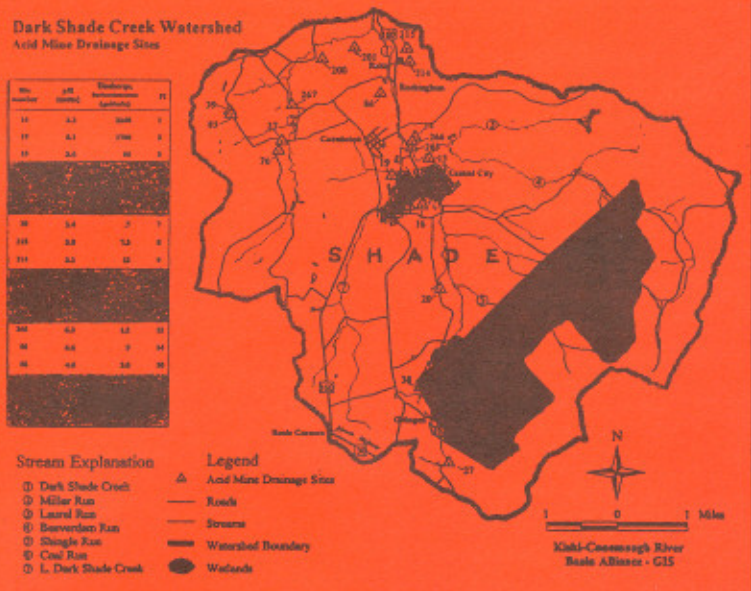
The Dark Shade Sub-Basin is no longer a far-off goal for AMD&ART. What started as a single-discharge project has grown to encompass an entire watershed and several partners already committed to this site. Combined with the remediation plan already in motion upstream at the Oven Run Sub-Basin, Dark Shade efforts will significantly improve the Stonycreek River, making possible a base fishery in Johnstown. The 104(b)(3) funds, if granted, will allow us to research and produce a Watershed Restoration "action plan" that will determine how sites should be treated and if they can be combined; if remining can occur in this region, and how it will affect sites; and will fund community meetings throughout the sub-basin.

From Rust to Renewal, the traveling AMD&ART exhibit assembled last summer, was displayed at the 1998 Southwestern PA Discovery Fair, and will be displayed in downtown Central City from May through June in a Sunshine Avenue storefront. It will move on to Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, this fall after it shows at local festivals this summer. If you would like to exhibit *From Rust To Renewal*, please contact Shelbie Knox, Project Coordinator.

Our Spiffy New Maps

We thought this would be an excellent opportunity to thank Rob McCombie and Mark Antonik of the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance for their help with GIS mapping of our sites.

The map that you probably can't see to the right represents the Dark Shade Sub-Basin with population centers and discharge locations. The grey and white box contains the site number, pH, flow, and priority rating for each of the Dark Shade discharges. The big dark spot is a state gameland. If you would like non-Liliputian versions of the maps, please call Shelbie at (724) 329-1560.



BVHS Students Lend a Hand

On May 6th, more than 30 Student Council members from Blacklick Valley High School performed some "deep-rooted" spring cleaning at the Vintondale Community Uplands site. BVHS, located in Nanty Glo, serves Vintondale students as well.

Their volunteer day centered around what our landscape artists refer to as "editing"—removing trees and roots (to be mulched) so that the site is prepared for future construction. These students were especially helpful in clearing out the future picnic areas.

In March, Project Associate Krista Patterson presented AMD&ART to the Student Council. Initially, some students were incredulous that they will ever see fish in the Blacklick, or see more than a bony field in Vintondale. However, after some very intelligent questions about the treatment system and our reasons for locating in Vintondale, they were all enthusiastic to help out.

AMD&ART and the Borough of Vintondale extend the heartiest of thanks to the BVHS Senior Student Council, advisor Brian Gibson, and principal Tom Kupchella.

Attendees at March 10th Watershed Meetings

- Allegheny Ridge State Heritage Park
- AMD&ART
- Berwind Corp.
- Cambria County Conservation District
- Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority
- Central City Borough Council
- EarthTech, Inc.
- Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance
- Office of Congressman John P. Murtha
- Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance
- Somerset County Conservation District
- Southern Alleghenies Conservancy
- Southwetsern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission
- Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project (SCRIP)
- WVU—National Mine Land Reclamation Center

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Allegheny Heritage Development Corporation

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- Allan Comp, Project Director
- Julie Bargmann, Artist
- Brenda Brown, Artist
- Angelo Ciotti, Artist
- Bob Deason, Scientist
- Stacy Levy, Artist
- Michael Oppenheimer, Artist
- Peter Richards, Artist
- Lily Yeh, Artist
- Shelbie Knox, Coordinator

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