



# NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND COMPLETION OF  
VINTONDALE'S AMD&ART PARK

INITIATED IN 1994

DECEMBER 2005-SPECIAL EDITION

## A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

The completion of Vintondale's AMD&ART Park is truly an occasion for celebration. Among the many individuals, companies, and organizations that generously volunteered their time, expertise, and resources, two deserve particular recognition for their remarkable contributions.

E. Jeanne Gleason, Board President, respected throughout the Commonwealth for her work in the Arts, has a special gift for bringing people together to accomplish a shared goal. Jeanne's organizational talents, tireless efforts and remarkable capacity to motivate, combined with her personal charm and justly deserved recognition as a community leader, have been critical to AMD&ART's success in its first decade.

T. Allan Comp, volunteer Executive Director who lives and works in Washington D.C., brought to AMD&ART the wonderful ability to think beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. Allan has been exceptionally generous with his time, energy and creative talents, and tireless in bringing AMD&ART's work to the attention of audiences across the nation.

For their many strengths and their generous sharing of time and talents throughout the past decade, the Board of Directors of AMD&ART, Inc. extends its profound thanks to Allan Comp and Jeanne Gleason.

*Mary P. Lavine, Ph.D., President, Board of Directors, AMD&ART, Inc.*

## FOUNDER'S CORNER: AN APPRECIATION

It's a bit daunting to sit down and try to think about what to say for a project that has absorbed a dozen years of my life, but more than any other word, I think "thanks" is the best. For almost any professional, there are few opportunities granted in a lifetime to have the luxury of exploring an idea fully, taking something out to its full extension, really pushing the envelope of possibility and AMD&ART has been that for me. Unlike the many AmeriCorps Members and the OSM/VISTA Volunteers that served for a year or two, I've had the chance to work this project from its beginning to its full completion, a real gift. I've been at the center, figuring out how to find the money, the people, the energy and the community support to actually make this project happen. Thanks to those funders, community members, AmeriCorps, OSM/VISTAs, Board members and countless others, we did it.

In the process of doing that, AMD&ART has become more than a project in Vintondale; it's become a source of inspiration to other communities across coal country and as far away as the Oregon coast, even England. "AMD&ART" is now both the name of a park in Vintondale and the name of an idea, a commitment to interdisciplinary work in the service of community aspirations to fix the environment and maybe heal a few sore spots in our hearts as well. At our History Symposium last July, John Dawes, Director of the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Protection Program called AMD&ART "the Gold Standard" for AMD treatment systems and Dr. Brent Glass, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History saw the essence of being American in AMD&ART -- unbounded by convention, loyal to its history, determined in its execution and delightful in its result. Not a bad outcome for an historian that didn't even know what AMD was when he started on this adventure.

Now, as we begin 2006, Vintondale Borough is the inheritor of all that we have worked so hard with the people of Vintondale to achieve and the Vintondale Planning Commission has been designated the operator of the AMD&ART Park. To the extent the Planning Commission is willing to become a park manager and consistently deal with all the many things, large and small, that must be dealt with, the AMD&ART Park will be a significant asset in this community and in this region. Neglect the park in this dynamic natural environment and nature will transform a pioneering public park with an AMD treatment system and wetlands into a dense and wild place -- years later someone will be discovering old interpretive signs buried in the undergrowth.

In many ways, the challenge of the next chapter in Vintondale history will still be the same: bringing effective community resources to bear in creating and maintaining what is a remarkable community and a remarkable asset. AMD&ART as a project is completed: AMD&ART as a Community Park is only just beginning. I can only hope that those choosing to join in this new Community Park adventure will have the same great ride I and the many others that worked for AMD&ART did for the last dozen years. Thanks!



T. Allan Comp,  
PhD.  
Founder /Director

## RECENT SUCCESSES!

- RIGHT: To commemorate the park's completion there was an AMD&ART History Symposium July 8th and a Community Celebration Day July 9th 2005. Local and nationally renowned experts spoke to the successes of AMD&ART, from multiple disciplines like history, community development, science, environment and the arts. The speakers gathered for a photo during an intermission.



- LEFT: The celebration day was kicked off with an Old Fashioned Main Street Parade in Vintondale. The afternoon included a ceremony and soccer clinic. Nearly 250 people came out for the event.

- RIGHT: The Mine Portal was completed in November of 2005, but it gained an equal amount of attention during the Celebration in July, because it was the first time many visitors had the opportunity to view it.



- LEFT: The Great Map is adjacent to the Mine Portal. The mosaic map replicates the 1923 Sanborn Insurance Map of the Vinton Colliery. Standing on the map, visitors can locate and compare the present landscape and buildings to those of earlier mining times. Visitors as well as local residents now have the opportunity to recognize, admire, and reflect upon Vintondale's rich community history.

- RIGHT: The Clean Slate marks and celebrates the return of the clean water to the South Branch of Blacklick Valley Creek. The project was the winner of a National Student Design Competition held in 2004. The student designers were Claire Fellman and Emily Neye.



## RECENT SUCCESSES!

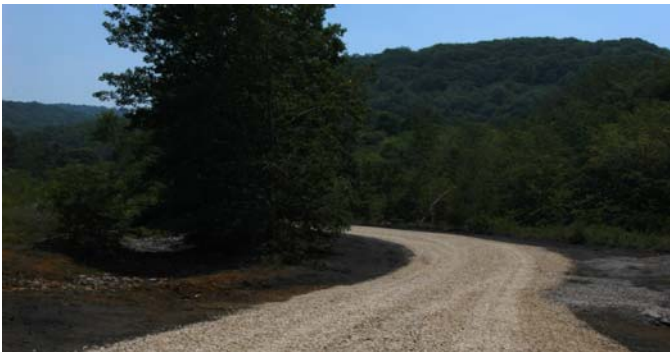
- RIGHT: The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) OWOW (Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Waterways) is funding a significant expansion of the AMD&ART website, to be completed by March 2006. This will include an expansion of the site tour, linking grants received to the specific places within the site funded by those grants. Be sure to log-on and check out the new site this spring at [www.amdandart.org](http://www.amdandart.org).

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- LEFT: AMD&ART was recently recognized as a winner of the Phoenix Award, often called “the Brownfield’s equivalent of Hollywood’s Oscar.” The award acknowledges exceptional projects in Brownfield redevelopment work. AMD&ART is the first national recipient of the Community Impact Award for Mine-Scarred Lands.

- RIGHT: Youth of all ages participated in the Soccer Clinic held on July 9th, 2005 to “break in” the 4 acres of field and the new soccer equipment. Recreation has become a valuable component of Vintondale’s AMD&ART Park. From an initial community softball game to serving as a home field for the Cambria County Christian School 2005 Soccer season, the recreational area fuses community and park.



- LEFT: A new two-lane access road with parking and shaded picnic area guides visitors to the recreation fields and pavilion. Funding for development of a recreation area hinges on an access road for the park. Today, thanks to cash raised by AMD&ART and a huge in-kind donation by Rose-Bud Mining, Vintondale will now be able to pursue grant funding that had previously been unavailable.

- RIGHT: AMD&ART has completed its work with the Vintondale project site and the staff have left their offices. The Education Center now holds offices for the Vintondale Borough Planning Commission, manager of the AMD&ART Park, as well as all the educational resources for Vintondale’s AMD&ART Park.



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**Vintondale's AMD&ART Park**

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*Founder / Volunteer Director*

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John Foreman

Jane Marines

Andrew Rose, PhD.

Anthony Sossong

**AMD&ART  
2005 Staff & Summer Interns**



Row 1: Jimmy Tucker (AmeriCorps\*VISTA Summer Associate), Holly Lees (intern), Dana Zufall (OSM/VISTA)

Row 2: Abby Stangl (intern), Liz Elliot (intern), Nicolette Slagle (AmeriCorps, PMSC), Cindy Wigger (OSM/VISTA)