



NEWSLETTER

AMD&ART - "Artfully transforming environmental liabilities into community assets"

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Vintondale AMD&ART Park Grand Opening Celebrated

The Grand Opening of the Vintondale AMD&ART Park held October 26th at the Hungarian Reformed Church, the site of the park's future education center, was a celebration of over 5 years tireless effort in the battle against acid mine drainage and the consequent loss of community pride.

The event drew over 50 participants, many of which were Vintondale residents. Brad Clemenson, spokesman for Congressman Murtha, Representative Sara Steelman, and Senator John Wozniak, all in attendance, addressed the audience about the importance of AMD cleanup and the unique model the Vintondale park will now serve as. Other speakers included; Jeanne Gleason, President, AMD&ART, Mike Palovich, Vintondale Borough Council, Jane Marines, President, Vintondale Municipal Authority, Dave Hamilton, Office of Surface Mining, and T. Allan Comp, AMD&ART founder.

Representatives from project partners included, PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned



Jeanne Gleason, AMD&ART Board of Directors President, addresses the audience about the importance of community involvement throughout the Vintondale project.

Mine Reclamation, Stream Team, Kiski Basin Initiative, and the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy, among others.

The event also included an expression of appreciation from AMD&ART project coordinator, Jessica Johnson to the array of partners who made the project in Vintondale such a success and truly collaborative effort.

The AMD treatment ponds are now complete and beginning to treat water. Work on the history wetlands, interpretative signage, and

memorial mine portal will continue through spring. Additionally, funding has been secured to start base work on the recreational space including a pavilion and athletic fields. This portion of the park will be completed in the spring by a collaborative effort between AMD&ART and the Borough of Vintondale.

With the heart of the park - the treatment system - now complete, the park is taking shape as the model of interdisciplinary approach

that it was envisioned to be and receiving worldwide recognition for it.

Vintondale will now be a source of hope for all of Appalachia in the struggle for the economic and environmental recovery that is much needed since the decline of the coal company town.

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AMD&ART would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone involved in the Vintondale project

A Note from Allan Comp

If there was one word that sums up the spirit of the Grand Opening we all enjoyed October 26, 2001, it was appreciation.

Appreciation for the remarkable generations of AmeriCorps and VISTA workers that accomplished so much over so long;

Appreciation for a community willing to share its proud history and trust all of us as co-developers of this grand 35-acre enterprise.

Appreciation for 17 very different funding organization that took the risks, found the common ground of mutual interest and made this project possible;

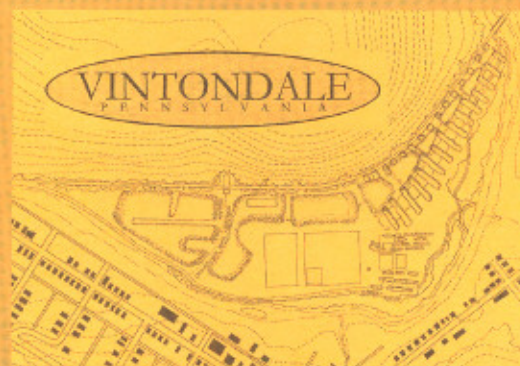
Appreciation for small contributors of so many forms, from those donating to the wetlands planting fund to the dozens that contributed services, materials, spirit and hope;

Appreciation for the contractors and workers that did so much more than they had to, so much more than expected, just so much more for us all;

Appreciation to generations of the Vintondale Borough Council and Mayor - and to the new Municipal Authority that will ultimately take on the responsibilities of this park -- for their constant and very important support;

Appreciation for literally hundreds of volunteers over nearly five years - from the very first to help build picnic tables for a park then only a dream to the many who came to plant the Litmus Garden trees and share in a place taking real shape around them;

And appreciation for all those that said it would never happen, that we were too environmental for the arts funders and too artsy for the environmental funders, that the multiple and important bureaucracies would never support such an unusual idea, that we could never do it without formal paid staff and big operating budgets, that we could never get the people of this region to believe in and support something so big, so adventuresome, so proud. To all of them - thanks for the challenge. We win.



Wetland Fundraiser Raises Over \$3,000

The History Wetland portion of the AMD&ART Vintondale treatment park will contain some of the best wetland habitat in the region thanks to a collaboration between AMD&ART and the Wildlife Habitat Council and the generous contributions of several project supporters.

The plan for the wetlands devised by AMD&ART and the Wildlife Habitat Council calls for a wide array of plants to support diverse habitats. These plants need to be ordered from special nurseries and can be quite expensive, considering the Vintondale site will include 7 acres of wetlands.

In order to meet the plan's specifications, AMD&ART held a wetland fundraiser to raise funds to purchase the necessary plants. So far \$3,335 has been donated. We would like to thank those who made a generous contribution to the wetland fund:

Edward Baldwin	Tom Grote
Dennis and Darlene Beltz	Dr. Mary Lavine
Clark and Bonnie Bredlinger	Janis Long
Brownsville Area Revitalization Corporation.	Meadowsweet Dairy
Richard Burkert	Tim Phillips
T. Allan Comp and Selma Thomas	Daniel Ploaich
Mary Davie	Denny and Roz Robitaille
Dillweed Bed and Breakfast	James and Mary Sheesley
John Foreman	Edward Sievers
Cindy Gilmore- In Memory of Ken Jones	Molly Ann Singer
E. Jeanne Gleason	Dr. and Mrs. Fred Soisson
William Glosser	Stager's Chevrolet
Tom Grote	Vincent and Mary Ugoletti
Barbara Hague	Paul and Barbara Uncapher
Mary Kish	Lloyd and Sandra Williams
Thomas Kuhar	Dennis Williamson
John Kupchella	Joseph and Cheryl Yaworski
John Kuriawa	Amelia Kakraysek
	Matilda Zakraysek

Funds are still needed. If you would like to make a contribution or memorial donation to the Vintondale Wetland Fund please contact the AMD&ART office at (814) 539-5357.



A shot of the Vintondale wetlands (after excavation) which will be planted in spring.

New Grant Funds Awarded to AMD&ART

AMD&ART is pleased to announce it is the recipient of a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council in the amount of \$19,640. AMD&ART will use the grant award for a large scale interpretative map which will be the fruit of a collaborative effort between Dr. T. Allan Comp, AMD&ART founder and public historian, and Peter Richards a renowned public artist.

Other recent grant awards include:

- \$10,000 grant from the Wildlife Habitat Council's Five Star Restoration Partnership for creating a community Wildlife team and a wildlife trail
- \$7,500 from the GPU Foundation for revamping of the Blacklick Creek Education Center in Vintondale
- \$6,000 from the Portrero Nuevo Fund to fund 2 VISTA volunteers for AMD&ART
- \$5,000 from the PA League of Woman Voters for educational programming in Vintondale
- \$5,000 from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for general operating expenses
- \$4,635 from the Canaan Valley Institute for outreach efforts including newsletters, brochures, and color site maps
- \$3,485 from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for general operating expenses
- The National Tree Trust awarded AMD&ART a 2002 Community Tree Planting Grant which will provide 100 red maples for Litmus Garden portion of the Vintondale Park.

Update: New Logo, New Office



The Dark Shade Brownfields Project has been undergoing major changes while making major advancements. The project has received a facelift with a new logo representing the "coalfield brownfield" concept and a new office in the new Central City Borough Building.

In October, Berwind Natural Resources Corporation donated the three historic Reitz #4 buildings to AMD&ART, Inc. so that DSBP can arrange for a proper environmental site assessment (ESA) of the buildings in order to develop proper redevelopment plans.

AMD&ART plans to hold title to the buildings through the assessment, cleanup, and planning stages of the site. An ESA began in late October with results to be known in the next month.

In August, a partnership between DSBP and PBS Coals resulted in the removal of over 5,000 tons of coal refuse from a former mine site in the village of Gahagen. A plan for a community park on the site was developed by AMD&ART's Jessica Johnson which incorporates walking trails, a picnic area, half basketball court, and a volleyball court. Construction began on the trail and courts in October.

Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$15,000 Environmental Justice grant to DSBP and Shade Creek Watershed Association (SWCA). This grant will facilitate communication and coordination among local stakeholders regarding the environmental, economic, and social health of the Shade Creek Watershed. It will provide monies for a series of discussion forums and training sessions.

Please Note: The new address for the DSBP office is:

314 Central Ave.
Suite 205
Central City, PA 15926

New Staff Settles In

Stephanie Seltzer an AmeriCorps *VISTA volunteer joined the Dark Shade Brownfields Project in April. She is a graduate of Shippensburg University with a degree in Geo-environmental Studies. She will serve as the project's Program Coordinator.

Rosalyn Robitaille an AmeriCorps *VISTA volunteer started her year of service with AMD&ART in June. She is a 2000 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown with a degree in Environmental Studies. She will serve as Program Coordinator.

Andrea Halkovich a Tableland work program participant joined the Dark Shade Brownfields Project in June. She is a graduate of Shade - Central City High School and will serve as Project Secretary.

Roman Chiu an AmeriCorps Volunteer from Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps joined AMD&ART in September. He is a 2000 graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in industrial design. He will serve as Design Coordinator.

Julia Herbst an AmeriCorps Volunteer from the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps joined the Dark Shade Brownfields Project in September. She is a 2001 graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in landscape architecture. She will serve as the project's Design Coordinator.

Vintondale Project Receiving Worldwide Recognition

AMD&ART and its first project, the Vintondale AMD&ART park, is gaining worldwide recognition for its unique mixture of design, art, and science. The park's acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment system and accompanying park are considered models of interdisciplinary approach and community planning.

A publication entitled "Hope and Hard Work: Making a Difference in the Eastern Coal Region" written by T. Allan Comp and OSM intern Mike Woods funded by the EPA and published by the Canaan Valley Institute features AMD&ART and DSBP among its 15 watershed success stories.

A recent publication by the U.S. EPA entitled "Protecting and Restoring America's Watersheds" which discusses

seven essential components of watershed management dedicates a full page to Vintondale as a model incorporating all seven components in a project that "reaches people, restores nature, and cleans water".

In October, AMD&ART was invited as a participant and presenter at the International Earth Sciences Engineering Symposium sponsored by the National Science Foundation at the University of Colorado - Boulder. Vintondale was selected as a project which best illustrates engineering applications in a complex natural world.

Also in October, the annual Bioneers Conference, sponsored by the Collective Heritage Institute held in San Francisco was attended by over 3,000 environmental

advocates. AMD&ART was one of two projects selected to present artful approaches to real and serious environmental problems. The other project chosen was in China.

In Chicago, the tri-annual "The Future Creativity in America" Symposium selected five community projects in the Americas that best represented the hope for creativity in the Western Hemisphere. AMD&ART is one of those five.

Additionally, the national "Science and Stewardship: Creating Greener Communities" annual conference of the Wildlife Habitat Council, who assisted AMD&ART in designing the Vintondale History Wetlands, will feature AMD&ART as its keynote address.

Copies of "Hope and Hard Work" are available from AMD&ART

ph: (814) 539-5357

email:

amdandart@amdandart.org

A limited number of the EPA's "Protecting and Restoring America's Watersheds" are available through AMD&ART.

It is also available at

www.epa.gov

document number:

EPA-840-R-00-001



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