

Construction begins!

On August 13, 2003, the Office of Surface Mining Harrisburg Field Office awarded AMD&ART in Vintondale the Phase II Watershed Cooperative Agreement for the improvement and enhancement of the acid mine drainage (AMD) remediation system within the community-designed AMD&ART Park. In order to make the operation of the existing treatment system more effective, several tasks need to be performed on site under the new grant.

1. Ensure adequate flow of water through the entire system and back into Blacklick Creek by lining the ponds that are leaking, lowering spillways, and redirecting pipes.
2. Improve overall water quality by establishing "pre-treatment" of the water for aluminum removal before it reaches the Vertical Flow Pond. This will include additional limestone added to pond 1, and the establishment of treatment wetlands in ponds 2, 3, and 4.
3. Repair and prevent erosion near and within the ponds by ditching surface water away, using manufactured soil to provide a growth medium, and seeding with a native seed mixture.
4. Provide the means to measure flows by installing weirs between ponds at various locations throughout the system.

These improvements will make the system more efficient and will strengthen the overall viability and power of the site. This will lead to lasting benefits to Blacklick Creek, the community of Vintondale, and environmental education in the region. Hutchinson Excavating began the improvements and enhancements in mid-November 2003. Earthtech, Inc., will supervise the on-site construction. Vintondale Borough is the current landowner and will act as long term conservator of the site. We anticipate that the construction aspects of the project, the topsoil placement, and re-vegetation will be completed in the spring of 2004. The treatment system should be up and running by the end of May 2004. Thanks to David Hamilton of OSM for his assistance.

Access Road Project

The Access Road is a vital part of the Vintondale AMD&ART Park site becoming a recreational area. The road entering the AMD&ART Park is not wide enough for vehicles to enter the park without driving on the Ghost Town Trail. Specifically the "Bottleneck" the west end "entry" of the Access Road is the narrowest portion, and will require the most excavation. Through continual collaboration with current stakeholders and the development of new partnerships a successful solution has been realized. AMD&ART staff is pleased to report that Hutchinson Excavating has been contracted to widen the Access Road at the Bottleneck. The Access Road Project is now in its second week of construction.

Bottleneck



AMD&ART Grants & News

AMD&ART is happy to announce the receipt of six new grants. Thanks to Allan Comp for writing most of these applications and to all these generous funders of the AMD&ART adventure. We appreciate every dollar and work hard to make each one count.

- ◆ The *Compton Foundation* will help in the development of media resources both on site in Vintondale and at the AMD&ART office in Johnstown. The Foundation's grant is intended to "make progress in the areas of media outreach [and] video and digital presentations and publications." Special emphasis is to be placed on the areas of web design and the "Art" portion of AMD&ART.
- ◆ The *Richard Lounsbury Foundation* grant goes towards enhancing historical work at the Vintondale site, upgrading the AMD&ART website and paying basic costs. Special thanks to Matt Gorton, former OSM intern to Dr. Comp, for his help.
- ◆ A small grant from the *Pennsylvania Council on the Arts* will help us with the design and completion of signage adjacent to the Vintondale site and for outreach purposes.
- ◆ The *Penn State Scholars in Residence* program, a collaborative venture of Penn State University's Institute for the Arts and Humanities and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, "offers community groups in mid-central Pennsylvania a chance to collaborate with Penn State faculty to plan and develop public programs combining the arts and humanities." AMD&ART will have one full day of consulting time from a Penn State Humanist.
- ◆ AMD&ART was again awarded the *Potrero Nuevo Americorps Match Grant*. This grant will help support the Americorps and VISTA staff of 2003-4 in their efforts to run the Education Center, oversee planting and construction on site, conduct community outreach and raise more funds for AMD&ART.
- ◆ The United States Forest Service's *Urban and Community Forestry Grant* will aid with planting efforts-media, backhoe (materials and transportation), a water pump, volunteer time and "in kind" services. AMD&ART is taking steps to assure the successful planting of new trees in the Litmus Garden.

Thanks to all of the above for their support of AMD&ART.

New AMD&ART Americorps Members

This fall AMD&ART welcomed three new AmeriCorps/VISTA Volunteers to the staff and one returning member. We are very pleased to introduce to the Vintondale Community this year's AMD&ART staff:

Becky Reese replaced George Turner as the new Environmental Education Coordinator. She is a recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor's of Science in Ecology and Evolution. For the past year she worked in an Evolutionary Genetics Laboratory. Becky came from Pittsburgh two

to return to her hometown of Northern Cambria to join our team.

Cindy Wigger is the new AmeriCorps OSM/VISTA Volunteer relocating to Pennsylvania from Missouri. As Watershed Development Coordinator, she will serve as the contact person for the Vintondale community and the AMD&ART Vintondale project. She will also focus on the Community Vision Plan and the Environmental Justice grant. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice specializing in International Studies.

George Turner, the returning member of the AMD&ART teams now our Site Coordinator. He received his Bachelor's of Fine Arts

in Painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design. This past year, as former Education Coordinator, George formed connections with area teachers and set up the Education Center

Nicholas Anzivino is our newest AmeriCorps member joining the staff in December. Nicholas attended Sarah Lawrence College and graduated with a history degree. For the past year he has lived and worked in Boston, Massachusetts. He will focus on organizing volunteers and supporting AMD&ART outreach initiatives.

Thanks to the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps and OSM/VISTA!

A Note From the Founder

T. Allan Comp, Ph.D

A New AMD&ART Offspring

For little more than a year now, I've been working with a remarkable group of partners based in the far southwest corner of Virginia. For those that may not know it, Virginia actually stretches far to the west, under West Virginia, to touch Tennessee and Kentucky and it's that far corner that is part of coal country, impacted by Acid Mine Drainage and home to a new AMD&ART-inspired and AMD&ART-informed project, the Wise Legacy Wetlands.

Seems that the University of Virginia campus at Wise, Virginia, is actually built on land that was stripped for coal in the 1950, but mined for coal long before that. As we all know, the usual result, acid mine drainage, now impacts the campus, actually flowing directly into a large lake that is coming to serve as the centerpiece for this growing campus. The Wise Legacy Wetlands will clean the water flowing to this lake, but like AMD&ART, it will do a lot more as well.

The site is being designed with scientists, a landscape architect, several historians and lots of cooperating agencies, both state and federal. My office, OSM, put up the first money to assist in developing a concept plan, using matching money from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Guest River Project, the local watershed group, serves as coordinator, the local RC&D is the fiscal agent, the TVA, the state Division of Mines Minerals and Energy, even the state DOT are all involved, patterning their partnership on the success of the one we first built here in Vintondale, PA.

Even better, these new wetlands are much more than a science project. They address the history of this site and these peoples; they address a contemporary need to destabilize negative expectations and built new hope for future generations; and they will create a place of both beauty and delight, a learning environment for generations of UVA-Wise students and residents of the region as well. Enthusiastically adopted by the Chancellor of UVA-Wise and the faculty, this project is building on our experience and our many lessons learned and they are showing us all the benefits of that experience – construction will start July 1!

We at AMD&ART are proud of this new 'offspring" a new place for reflection and healing that actually cleans the water as well. We invite everyone interested in AMD&ART to examine our partnerships, our commitment to community, and the range of interests that created our success. We are happy to share what we have learned. --TAC



Pictured above from left to right the new AMD&ART Americorps and Americorps OSM VISTA staff. From left to right: Cindy Wigger, Rebecca Reese, George Turner, and Nicholas Anzivino.

Recreation Area!

New baseball and soccer fields will be completed this spring. This past fall the field was prepared for seeding by Brad Minemeyer of Waste Management and Dr. Dick Lee. Waste Management leveled the field and removed most of the stones. Stone removal by Louis Kopczyk will ensure the ground has a sufficient layer of fertile, stone free soil. Dr. Lee provided a manufactured soil made out of dredge, manure, mulch, fertilizer, and lime. Waste Management will then come out and plant the fields once weather permits. This will include applying the correct amounts of chemicals, spreading the seed, and covering the area with hay or straw. Waste Management's services were provided free of charge. Dr. Lee's services were provided with donations from Recycled Soil Manufacturing Technology, LLC. This spring the Soccer Foundation will finish the soccer field by providing soccer equipment.

AMD&ART DESIGN COMPETITION

AMD&ART is holding a National Student Design Competition to mark the point in our passive treatment system where the once polluted, highly acidic water will return to the South Branch of the Blacklick Creek as clean water. This design competition is open to all students or groups of students in any field. Submissions are due by February 15th, 2004 and the final jury date is April 24th, 2004. There is a competition design budget of \$10,000 for the winning design. The jury members include:

T Allan Comp Ph.D. - Founder of AMD&ART
Alan Berger - Associate Professor, Graduate School for Design, Harvard University
Hugh C. Miller - Architect, FAIA, Honorary Member ASLA
Carole Ottosen - Garden writer and photographer
Buster Simpson - Public artist, community activist
Tim Collins - Ecology & Environmental Artist, Research Fellow, Studio for Creative Inquiry, Carneige Mellon University
Reiko Goto - Ecology & Environmental Artist, Research Fellow, Studio for Creative Inquiry, Carneige Mellon University

The winning design is set to be installed by the Fall of 2004. This design competition along with the many other artistic pieces being created for AMD&ART's Remediation Park brings us closer to the completion of this dream of transforming environmental liabilities into community assets while cleaning Pennsylvania's streams and our watershed.



T. Allan Comp, *Founder*

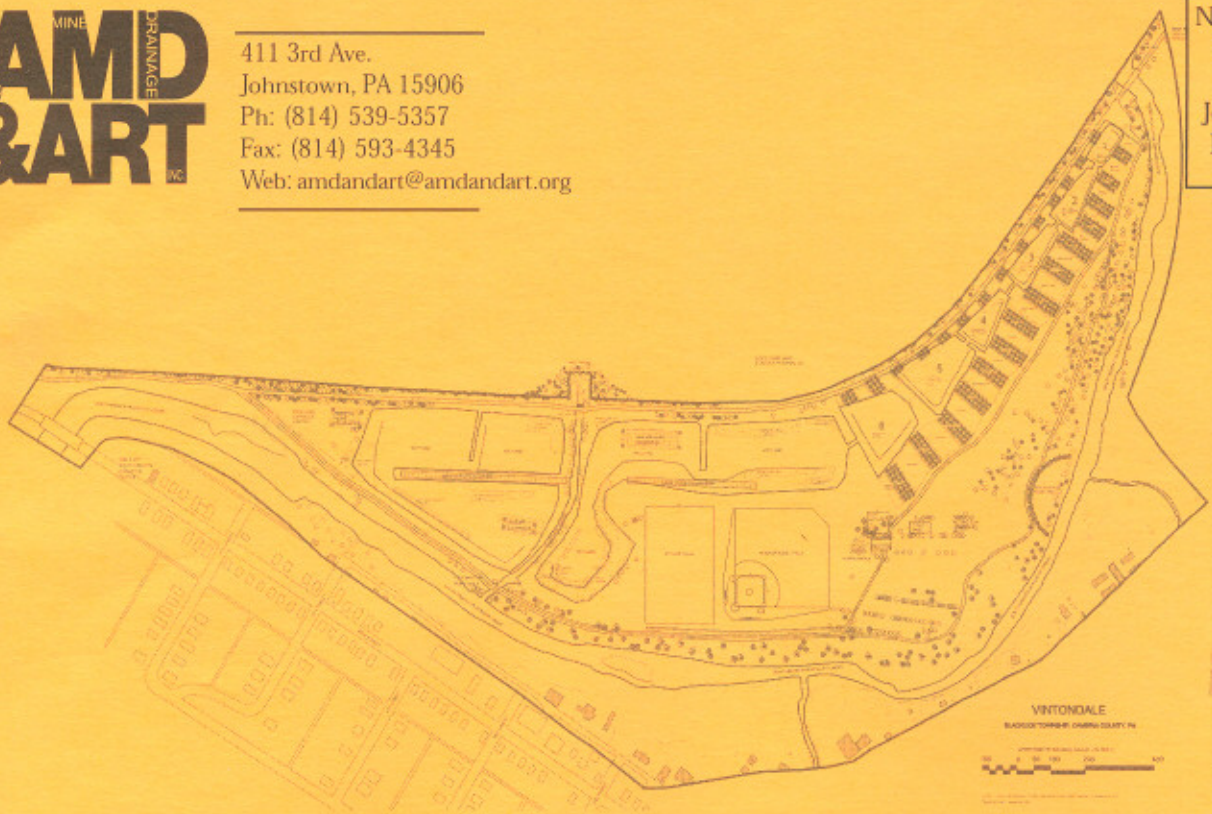
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