



TRAILBLAZER June 2005

Communities Helping Communities for a Better Tomorrow



SRA International Consultants Visit KCCA

Chris LaRosa and Mary Apostlico, SRA International Consultants for the MSL (Mine Scarred Lands) Working Group, came from Washington, D.C., to do a presentation at the Kanawha County Commission, explaining the assessment and proposed steps needed to move toward possible future development in Kelly's Creek.

The very fact that Kelly's Creek was chosen as only one of six pilot projects in the United States, to revitalize mine scarred lands in coal country, speaks to the importance of the visit from these individuals.

One of the greatest needs to pave the way for development in Kelly's Creek is sewage treatment. Unfortunately, the Kanawha County Commission has no available funds to provide sewage systems to the many small communities such as Kelly's Creek. However, we are hopeful that through the interest and help of the MSL Group in combination with the Brownfields Grant, there may still be possibilities for the residents in Kelly's Creek.

We appreciate the interest of Dr. Alan Comp, Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining, who is now chairman of the MSL Group and has worked with the KCCA for many years. Dr. Comp is instrumental in getting VISTA'S for watersheds in West Virginia, of which the KCCA was one of the first. He was also a vital part in encouraging and guiding the Kelly's Creek Communities Association in applying for the coveted Brownfields Grant.

We also appreciate the hard work of the SRA consultants; Chris LaRosa, Laura Sneeringer, Steve Garon and Mary Apostlico, who have been an encouragement to us. Even though progress can often times be painfully slow, we here at Kelly's Creek have been very fortunate to attract national attention with the MSL Group; attained the EPA/Brownfields Grant; and receive ongoing help from the (DEP) Department of Environmental Protection to help with our problems. We have always tried to heed some good advice offered to us when we first began, "Never take no for an answer. If one door closes, just look for another until you find help." We feel our communities are worth it!

Kelly's Creek Communities Association

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VISTA'S VISION

Tanna Huffman

This month has been just great. I am finally getting settled into my new job, finally getting somewhat organized. I have been to Riverside High School twice. Once to recruit students to help us with our Adopt a Highway clean up, and was invited back to present the Vista program to the students. I also went to WVU Tech to recruit students, but finals were beginning the next Monday which was "Crunch time" for them. It was the first time the program has been presented at the college. At least they know that we are here, and I will go back the next time we have a clean up.

On Wednesday May 18, 2005 seniors went to the Senior Expo. It was held at the Charleston Civic Center. Those attending were Barbara Hackworth, Kathy Armstrong, Mary Morris, Doris Stone, Singrid Reed, Jean Lamb, and Tanna Huffman.

I was able to procure a van from Valley Senior Services, which cost us nothing; picked us up right here in front of watershed office and brought us back that afternoon. We had a great time on the van, laughing all the way down and back. I think the van driver even had a good time.

We learned a lot of valuable information about health care prevention and also learned about the latest equipment for at-home care. We had hearing tests, blood pressure tests, and even foot exams.. There was a small fee for some tests such as blood sugar, thyroid, and a few others. I found out that there are a lot of things available to senior citizens which previously I didn't know existed. One group that impressed me was the group from Senior Services; so much so, that they were invited to come to our July 19th meeting to present some of their programs, give us some useful information, and answer questions that we might have. Hope to meet you then.

YOUR NEW INTERN

By Kelli Williams

Hi! My name is Kelli Williams, and I am your new intern at KCCA for the summer of 2005. I am currently a senior at WVU Tech, majoring in Biology. I am supposed to graduate in May 2006.

I am originally from South Charleston, WV and graduated from South Charleston High School in 2002. I have been an only child for as long as I remember. That all changed when I started my freshman year at college and got a little brother. My new brother is actually a new dog, which I think is a byproduct of "empty nest syndrome." He keeps my parents happy while I am away at school.

I was very excited to have gotten this internship, because I wanted the chance to make a difference in the community. The environment has always been important to me, and I was eager to take a more active role. I think it's very important to leave a clean community for our children and grandchildren. As your new intern, I will do the best work that I possibly can. I hope that I can make an impact on your community, and I look forward to making new friends here at Kelly's Creek.

Announcements

- *The KCCA June meeting will be canceled, due to the Community "Meth" Meeting at Cedar Grove Community School, Tuesday evening, June 21, 2005, 7:00 pm. We will be attending that meeting and encourage everyone to attend because of the seriousness of the drug problems.*
- *KVSS Senior Picnic, July 13, 2005, Shawnee Park, Dunbar, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm; refreshments – door prizes-entertainment.*