

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Next meeting: Wednesday 3/10/1999 at 7:00 pm. Macoskey Center - Harmony House, 247 Harmony Road, SRU, Slippery Rock, PA Prior Meeting (2/10/99) attendees: Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Clark, Charles Cooper, Mindi Hockenberry, Dale Hockenberry, Dave Adams, Bob Beran, Matt Beran, Pat Beran, Roger Bowman, Deanne Gillen, Tim Gillen, Mike Enright, Anthony Liguori, Valentine Kefeli, Dean DeNicola, Steve Smith, Janice Belgraden, Bob Zick, Fred Brenner, Tim Danehy, Margaret Dunn

"Let's do it again..." SRWC MARCH MEETING AT HARMONY HOUSE!!

Everyone had such a wonderful time last month that we were invited back!!! The Harmony House is located at the

Macoskey Center on Harmony Road on the East side of the SRU campus. (From SR 173 in Slippery Rock turn east onto Keister Road (as you would normally go to Vincent Science Hall) go about 1 mile and turn left (north) onto the first township road (Harmony Road, a.k.a. Redmond Rd.) past the SRU tennis courts. The Harmony House is located on the east (right) side of Harmony Road about one-half mile from this intersection. Pop 'n Pizza to be provided by Coalition participants.

SRWC LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS AT THE HARMONY HOUSE

At last month's meeting, Dr. Valentine Kefeli and Anthony Liguori made us "feel right at home". The warm welcome included SRWC activities displayed on a poster prominently with information on sustainable systems. Prior to a tour of the facility, Dr. Valentine Kefeli provided an overview of the on-going research and coordinated educational programs at the Macoskey Center. This was extremely well received by all!!! The interest in their full-sized, indoor treatment of domestic waste was particularly astounding!!! Another interesting project is the development of MACOSKEY AGROSOL. This soil consists of four components that contribute essential properties:

- compost - for macroelements(nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium),
- pond sediments - for pH and water retention,
- wood chips - for carbon and loose soil,
- topsoil(Grashem-type) - for organic material, specific microflora, aluminum-silicate matrix.

Soils at Jennings Environmental Education Center have been sampled, analyzed, and compared to the agrosol. (Comparison data in future issue.)

Note: We also enjoyed the company of Mindi Hockenberry, who will be starting college to pursue a career in the environmental field, and youngsters, Matt Beran and Deanne Gillen, who enlivened the meeting and brought a smile to all of us!!!!

1999 SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION SYMPOSIUM

THIS EVENT IS NEXT MONTH !!!!!Friday, April 16, 1999. MUCH TO DO!!! The tentative schedule includes Guest Speakers, and oral and/or poster presentations by Girl Scouts, students and professors from Grove City College and Slippery Rock University, including the Harmony House. Besides coffee and pastries during registration, "hardy" hors d'oeuvres and sandwiches will provide a great lunch. A special "hands-on" program to study stream ecology and passive treatment technology will be available for high school students. New this year, summaries of the student presentations will be included with the schedule. The on-going student contributions are irreplaceable

as their work documents the step-by-step improvement to the watershed. Janice Belgreden's skill as Moderator was recognized by many at last year's Symposium and she has graciously agreed to tackle this again. A guided field tour to the recently installed Anoxic Limestone Drain (SR101A), Vertical Flow System (SR109) and other sites in the watershed is planned after lunch. Thanks again to Jennings Environmental Education Center for offering their facilities!!! Registration will begin at 8:00 am. The tour will return to Jennings with closing remarks around 3:15 pm. A program draft is planned to be included in next month's Catalyst. Everyone invited!!! There are no charge!!! Mark your calenders!!!

To assure that there is "food aplenty", **please complete the attached announcement and return it in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope.**

1999 "GET-TOGETHER" PLANNED

The SRWC is tentatively planning to hold the second annual "Get-Together" on **Wednesday, April 14 at the Epiphany Catholic Church, Boyers, PA between 6:00 and 8:00 pm.** "Back by popular demand" **Janice Belgredan and Steve Smith** will be welcoming the community to our "indoor picnic". (There will be plenty of good food.) New SRWC caps and mugs will be distributed. Posters and "one-on-one" discussions with Coalition participants will be used to explain the recent activities. This event promises to be a "fun time" and an opportunity to entertain new ideas and answer questions about the efforts and goals of the Coalition. A special thanks to the **PA Game Commission** for the bird feeders which will be used, along with other donated, outdoor-type items, for "door prizes". All are invited...drop by any time between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm ...bring the family!!!

PILOT-SCALE EFFORTS EXPAND AT JENNINGS!!!

As mentioned in the 1999 PA DEP, "UPDATE" Vol. 5, No. 8, a Watershed Restoration and Assistance Program grant was awarded to the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition to study the use of Biosolids in the passive treatment of mine drainage. Thank-you goes out to the PA DEP Bureau of Watershed Conservation for providing this worth-while learning opportunity. The study focuses on both the use of composted biosolids as a soil amendment for aerobic wetlands and as an organic media for vertical flow systems. In 1997, an aerobic wetland was constructed at Jennings with the help of Robert Zick, Chester Engineers, Fred Brenner, Grove City College, Charles Cooper, C D S Associates, Inc., Local Girl Scouts, and Tim Danehy, BioMost, Inc. The wetland (which grew like mad!) will be studied by Grove City College senior biology student Michael Enright as part of his internship requirement. Mike Enright also provided a strong and capable back in the construction of the pilot-scale system. **A huge, 4-ton, triple-handled biosolids and limestone THANK-YOU is extended to this hard-working student!!!** Also, Slippery Rock University students under the direction of Dr. Jerry Chmielewski, Biology, and Dr. Michael Stapleton, Environmental Geosciences will be assisting in the analysis of the wetland and pilot-scale systems. Thank you for your continuing support SRU!!!!

Thanks to the Slippery Rock Watershed Association, Quality Aggregates Inc., Amerikohl Mining, Inc. for their support.

For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 338 Glen Eden Road, Rochester PA 15074, (724)774-2813, fax (724)774-1219. Try our new e-mail address: sri@ccia.com

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