

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 9 @ 7:00 PM, Macoskey Center - Harmony House, Pizza & Pop will be provided!! 01/12/99 meeting attendance: W. Taylor, V. Kefeli, M. Dunn, T. Danehy, D. Peart, S. Smith, J. Belgredan, F. Brenner

DELINEATION OF EXPERIMENTAL WETLAND IN MIDDLE OF WINTER

After four extremely cold days, **Shaun Busler** finished inventorying the experimental wetland (Project 8) installed at Jennings Environmental Education Center. You may be asking yourself, why would anyone want to inventory a wetland in the middle of winter? Plants die off in the winter, right? Not at this site. Even after the recent cold weather, believe it or not, there is still plant growth. A deep mine, the source of the acid mine drainage, keeps the influent water at a constant temperature year round. Thus, some plants are able to survive the bitter cold (but not Shaun!!). The delineation was made more difficult due to a layer of ice, but so far, Shaun has found significant plant growth including several species of Gramaceae, Soft Rush, Typha, and Three-Way Sedge. In addition, watercress, a plant found in exceptional quality water, was possibly found in several locations within the wetland.

Shaun Busler, a recent graduate of Grove City College, began volunteering at the Jennings site under the tutelage of **Dr. Fred Brenner** and **Charlie Cooper**. This progressed to a study of the test tank vertical flow system (Project 10) and test bed wetland (Project 11). Along with GCC students **Kim Kosick** and **Corrie Gardner**, Shaun has given a poster presentation of their findings at the Pennsylvania Academy of Science.

A sincere thanks to **Melissa Alkson** for helping out on the first day of delineation! We wish **Shaun** the best of luck in all his future endeavors!!!!

ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS RECOGNIZES KNOX DISTRICT MINING OFFICE AND EBENSBURG OFFICE OF THE BUREAU OF ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION

Congratulations to the Knox District Mining Office and the Ebensburg office of the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation for being recognized by the Pittsburgh District of the Army Corps of Engineer for "interagency cooperation, partnership and environmental contribution." These two offices were recognized for their acid mine drainage remediation efforts. They have been working together for the past three and one-half years on a comprehensive water quality program and a variety of remediation efforts, including Yonkers Run and Gumboot Run. Since 1969, the Ebensburg office has operated an automated lime doser treatment plant on Swamp Creek, a major tributary to the East Branch Lake. The lake's fishery would not survive without this facility. Before the plant's installation, the East Branch Lake was known as "the dead sea of Elk County." Because of the plant and other remediation habitat improvement efforts, the East Branch Lake supports a varied sport fishery including walleye, bass, trout, muskies, perch, and panfish. The Army Corps of Engineers estimates that more than \$6 million will enter the local economy annually from visits to the lake.

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition would like to again congratulate the Knox DMO for demonstrating the value of public private partnerships not only in Elk County but in the Slippery Rock Watershed as well. A more detailed article can be found in the December 17th edition of the DEP Update.

Photo of the Month



SHAUN AND MELISSA
WORKING HARD IN THE
FREEZING TEMPERATURES
TO DELINEATE THE
DEMONSTRATION
WETLAND.

Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., and Allegheny Mineral Corporation for their support. For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 3016 Unionville Road, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066, (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, sri@ccia.com. January Distribution: 414 copies