

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 8 @ 7:00 PM, Macoskey Center - Harmony House, Pizza & Pop will be provided!! 02/09/00 meeting attendance: W. Taylor, V. Kefeli, J. Hicks, M. Dunn, T. Danehy, D. Peart, S. Smith, J. Belgredan, D. DeNicola, Glenn Anderson

SYMPOSIUM !!!!

Just a month away!

In less than a month, the **FIFTH(!) Annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium** will be here. Due to the growing interest in the watershed efforts, the format of the symposium has been changed since last year. To accommodate all the speakers the symposium has been extended to **two days!!**

Tentative Schedule

On **Thursday, April 6** in the afternoon and into the evening, students from Grove City College and Slippery Rock University will be presenting. Also speaking on Thursday, the Coalition is excited(!) to have Mary Jo White, State Senator, who has provided long-term encouragement to our restoration efforts, and Glenn Anderson, Butler County Commissioner. Joseph Aloe, President, Quality Aggregates Inc., whose quarry has generously helped to provide the "must have" limestone aggregate needed for many of the passive treatment systems, will briefly speak about their role in watershed restoration. And, of course, there will be plenty of food!

Then on **Friday, April 7**, there will be a brief (layman-friendly) technical session explaining the types of restoration efforts that have been used by participants in the Coalition in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed headwaters. Bob Dolence, Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection, who has championed the state-wide, innovative and effective, "Reclaim PA" and "Growing Greener" initiatives, will discuss the future and goals of these programs. John Stilley, President, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., who has completed and assisted in successful restoration projects in the watershed, will discuss current restoration efforts. John Oliver, Secretary, and/or Josh First, Director of Environmental Education, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will discuss the environmental education and restoration efforts in the state parks and forests. After lunch, the afternoon field tour will include three (two active and one completed) restoration sites. This year **students from 4 high schools** will be in attendance. Nancy Bires from Delehunty High School is bringing 5 students, David Wuchina from Northern Area Alternative School is bringing 5 students, Connie White from New Wilmington is bringing 5-10 students, and Tony Consbruck from Slippery Rock High School is bringing 10-15 students. All high schools in attendance will each have their own poster display!!! WOW

To ensure "vast quantities" of food, we ask that you please complete and detach the registration form located on the back of this page and return it in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope. Much is happening to improve the watershed! **Wear field clothes Friday!** There are more speakers and activities... come join us!

The Jennings Environmental Education Center, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has again graciously offered their facility for the event. The Jennings Environmental Education Center is located at the corner of State Routes 8 and 528 across from Old Stone House about 8 miles north of Butler and 4 miles south of Slippery Rock. Entrance is from Route 528.

"GET-TOGETHER"

On April 12, the SRWC "Get-together" will be in Boyers at the Epiphany Catholic Church. The "Get-Together" is an informal gathering of SRWC participants and the interested public. For directions call Stream Restoration, Inc. Don't miss out on great door prizes, great food, and great fun. Bring the family ... the kids always have a great time!!!

GIRL SCOUTS TO PARTICIPATE IN RECLAMATION EFFORT

Mark your calendars and join three bus loads of Girls Scouts as they head up to a site near McConnell's Mill on **April 29** to do some upland planting. Quality Aggregates has planned a day of fun and learning, look for more information in a future Catalyst!

CONGRATULATIONS MARGARET DUNN!!!

Mike Leon, Senior Engineer, (Harding Lawson Associates), and Robert Zick, Client Services, (Chester Engineers), contributed their time and talents to nominate **Margaret** for the Environmental Conservation Distinguished Service Award for the year 2000. This award is presented by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, which was founded in 1871. In the February 2000 issue of "Mining Engineering", published by a member organization (Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration) with over 16,000 members internationally, Margaret's picture and a small article relating to the award was published. **Margaret's award is well deserved for her tireless efforts helping to reclaim abandoned minelands and abate mine drainage while increasing public awareness and providing educational opportunities for all age groups. She also has helped to coordinate a vast quantity of projects that have already made significant, positive and measurable impacts within the watershed.**

CONGRATULATIONS MARGARET AND THANK-YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WATER QUALITY IMPROVES WITHIN THE ABEL/DRESHMAN TRIBUTARY

Since completion of reclamation activity, the water quality of an unnamed tributary in the DeSale Restoration area has significantly improved. Amerikohl Mining, Inc. completed a Landowner Reclamation Project on the Abel/Dreshman property in 1998. Acid mine drainage at this site is the result of old, abandoned minelands. Alkaline coal ash from Scrubgrass Power Plant was blended and mixed into the spoil material and then used to backfilled the abandoned pits on the site. The total reclamation of the site was estimated to be 56 acres. As a result of the reclamation, the pH has improved from an average of 3.6 to 4.7. More importantly, the acidity has dramatically decreased from an average of 127.5 mg/L to 11.6 mg/L. This is over a ten fold decrease! In addition, iron has been cut three fold and aluminum has been reduced four fold.

2000 SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(optional) _____

Attending: Thursday Friday Both # of people attending _____

Please send (continue to send) monthly newsletter. _____

Please respond by Monday, March 27, 2000.

Return to: Stream Restoration Incorporated (A PA Non-Profit Organization)
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