

THE CATALYST-

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday April 12 @ 7:00 PM, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Pizza and Pop will be provided!! 3/8/01 meeting attendance: J. Belgredan, F. Brenner, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, and W. Taylor.

2001 SYMPOSIUM VIRTUAL FIELD TOUR

Come on out and learn about passive treatment technology first hand from participants active in the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition in a field tour of some projects in the watershed. Below is a brief description of each with a before and after picture of the site. The tour will begin approximately around 1:00 PM on Friday, April 6.



De Sale Phase I

Constructed in Spring 2000 by Amerikohl Mining Inc., the passive treatment system treats one of the worst discharges in the watershed. Amazingly it only took five weeks to construct this system. With full support, projects can be completed quickly and cost effectively.



De Sale Phase II

After seeing the reclamation of De Sale Phase I, an adjoining landowner with a 200 gpm discharge became interested, which resulted in Phase II. This system treats an entire stream! Using only environmentally friendly materials, the two passive treatment systems at De Sale are the first steps to restore Seaton Creek.



Goff Station Restoration Area

Scarred by towering gob piles that form the stream banks of Murrin Run and strip pits filled with acidic mine drainage, Goff Station is one of the largest projects to date within the Slippery Rock Creek Headwaters. Construction will be completed later this year by Quality Aggregates Inc. The construction will include a **bat hibernaculum**, which is first known of its kind east of the Mississippi.
(more on bats inside!)





SRWC ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



THURSDAY, APRIL 5

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Multimedia presentation entitled Hard Coal, Soft Coal: PA Mining in Film and Song by Dr. Philip Mosley, a historical, interpretative entertainer

- Food
- Posters
- Educational
- Family Fun!!

Call Jennings at (724) 794-6011 for more information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Speakers

- Fred Brenner, PhD, Professor of Biology, Grove City College
- Jeff Jarrett, PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Joan Clippinger, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Joe Aloe, President, Quality Aggregates Inc.
- Maurie Kelly, Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA)
- Valentine Kefeli, Soil Scientist, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
- Students from local universities

As a new feature at our symposium this year, the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is having a panel of experts address questions regarding watershed/stream restoration, conservation, and protection. Please prepare questions and **stump the experts!!**

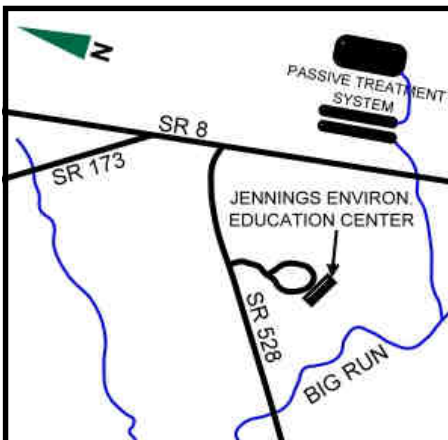
Panel will include:

- Bob Beran, Wetland Specialist, Aquascape
- Dave Johnston, Butler County Planning Commission
- John Stilley, President, Amerikohl Mining, Inc.
- John Oliver, Secretary PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Margaret Dunn, President, Stream Restoration Incorporated

Lunch will be provided!

A field tour of several recent projects will be conducted after lunch.

NO FEES OR DUES FOR ATTENDING!!



The Symposium will be held at JEEC, which is located at the corner of State Routes 8 and 528 across from the Old Stone House about 8 miles north of Butler.

GET TOGETHER!

It is time once again for the annual "Get Together" which will be held at the Epiphany Catholic Church located off of Forestville Road and Rt. 308 in Boyers, PA on May 9, 2001 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. There will be door prizes, great picnic foods and loads of fun for everyone. So, come on out!!! All are Welcome!!! Bring the Family!!! Bring the Kids!!! Smash some Piñatas!!! For directions and more information call (724) 776-0161.

WILDLIFE LECTURE AT GROVE CITY COLLEGE

Jerry Hassinger, Endangered Species Coordinator, Pennsylvania Game Commission, will be presenting a lecture at Grove City College concerning the value of wildlife. The lecture will take place May 2 at 7:00 PM in Room 113, Rockwell Hall.



THE BATTY CATALYST

THE UNVEILING OF THE BAT HIBERNACULUM AT GOFF STATION



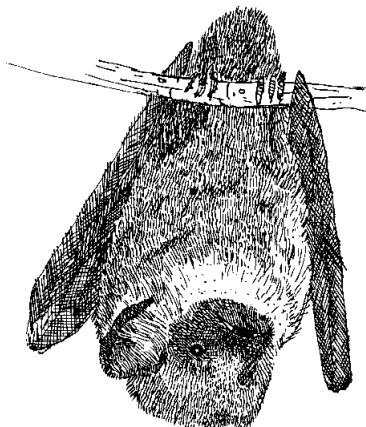
BAT HIBERNACULUM TO BE COMPLETED ON APRIL 6

Come and see the construction of the hibernaculum for yourself on April 6th as part of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition's Symposium Field Tour. That's right! The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is celebrating the construction of the bat hibernaculum at the Goff Station Restoration Area. Special thanks goes to Quality Aggregates Inc. who have donated the time, labor, and materials for this expansion project, which will further enrich and support the local ecosystem. Located in ideal bat habitat, this site will be the first manmade hibernaculum east of the Mississippi, that we know of, and will help support and increase the numbers of these vital animals in our area.



BAT FACTS

- ◆ Bats consume more than half their own weight nightly in mosquitoes and moths!
- ◆ Bats have perfectly good eyesight!
- ◆ Some bats can live for more than 30 years!
- ◆ Bats make their unnerving swoops over people's heads looking for mosquitoes!
- ◆ Less than 1/2 of 1% of bats are rabid, and they do not become aggressive when sick!
- ◆ Peaches, plantains, bananas, avocados, cashews, cloves, and mescal are all pollinated by bats!
- ◆ Very few bats eat blood, and none that do live in America!



OH GIVE ME A HIBERNACULUM!

Bats survive the harsh Pennsylvania winters by falling into a deep sleep called hibernation. By hibernating, bats can conserve their precious energy and survive for months without food or water. A hibernating bat's breathing and heart rate slows and their temperature drops dramatically. Often, it is hard to tell that they are alive at all!

Although hibernation helps bats conserve energy, it also leaves them helpless and weak. If a bat is disturbed during its hibernation, the energy it uses to wake up is wasted, and it may die before spring. Each time a bat has to wake up, two months worth of energy is consumed. In fact, tens of thousands of bats die every year because of human disturbances.

For these reasons, bats need to find a safe, warm and quiet place to hibernate. A cave or other such place that is used by bats is called a hibernaculum.

However, suitable hibernacula are increasingly hard to come by. Human disturbances have made many hibernacula unfit for bats. Without appropriate areas to hibernate, whole bat populations are at risk. The hibernaculum at Goff Station seeks to provide an ideal hibernating space for a wide range of bat species. Proper ventilation, insulation and predator exclusion have all been considered in our design, which we hope will serve generations of these tiny

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WATERSHED RESTORATION AND LAND USE

The **Growing Smarter: Land Use in PA Conference** was recently held on March 18-20, 2001 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in Hershey, PA. **Margaret Dunn, Tim Danehy, Shaun Busler, and Cliff Denholm**, representing the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, were among the **1400 people** in attendance. The conference focused on sound land use practices that are currently being utilized on the state, regional and local levels and how they can be further used and developed to ensure sustainable development and a high quality of life for all citizens. The Coalition presented a poster on the restoration activities at the De Sale Restoration Area and the North Liberty Reclamation sites and how they tied in with sound land use practices. Margaret was one of the speakers at the *Watershed Planning Initiatives at the Community Level* session and did an excellent job. We met lots of wonderful and interesting people from a wide variety of organizations. A great time was had by all!

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@salsgiver.com, www.srwc.org. April Distribution: 651 copies



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