

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: NO MEETING THIS MONTH!! COME TO THE "GET TOGETHER ON MAY 9!"
 4/12/01 meeting attendance: J. Belgredan, B. Beran, F. Brenner, S. Busler, C. Cooper, T. Danehy, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, S. Stevenson, and W. Taylor.

GET TOGETHER—MAY 9, 6:00 PM!!

Yes, the annual "Get Together" is finally here!!! It will be held at the Epiphany Catholic Church located off 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 Kids!!! **Smash some Piñatas!!!!** For more detailed directions and more information call (724) 776-0161.

2001 ANNUAL SRWC SYMPOSIUM

We cannot thank Jennings Environmental Education Center, the speakers, and all the attendees enough for making the 6th Annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium so rewarding and memorable!!! (Some traveled as far away as Harrisburg and Wilkes Barre!!!)

Thursday evening (4/05/01), Dr. Philip Moseley, PSU, provided a great "kick-off" to the event by depicting an historical overview of coal mining in film and song.

Very special thanks to **The William and Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation** for their generous donation to Stream Restoration Inc. which will be dedicated to the expansion of the award-winning programs at Jennings Environmental Education Center.



Joe Aloe

Janice Belgredan, a watershed resident and Coalition participant, donated her matchless talents to organize and to moderate the event. Working with **Dave Johnson, Will Taylor, Cindy Shirley, Eric Best, Tanya Rukoski, Mary Jo Graham, Ray Markle, and Gary Jenkins** at Jennings, the event went smoothly and appeared effortless. For the first time, a program with a summary of each presentation was distributed. Needless to say, this was an excellent effort. As requested, additional copies are being made available. In addition to those pictured, speakers included undergraduate college students from Slippery Rock University Scott Daly (Professors: Dean DeNicola, PhD, Biology; Michael Stapleton, PhD, Geochemistry) and from Westminster College (See next page).



J. Clippinger, DCNR



M. Kelly, PASDA



J. Belgredan, SRWC



T. Lawton, Scrubgrass Gen.



Bob Dolence, former PA DEP Deputy Secretary accepts **2001 SRWC Appreciation Award** for his vision and steadfast support of watershed groups and restoration efforts throughout the Commonwealth.



Dr. Mosley, PSU



Dr. Kefeli, SRWC



Dr. Brenner, GCC



J. Jarrett, Dep. Sec. DEP



A NEW IDEA — A NEW SUCCESS

Dr. Fred Brenner, after providing a follow-up on the successful careers of Grove City College students previously involved in our restoration effort, ably moderated (assisted by Tim Danehy) a panel of experts in a discussion regarding watershed restoration.

The panelists were **Bob Beran** of Aquascape, designer of naturally-functioning wetlands; **Dave Hageman**, Director of the PADEP Grants Center, part of the largest-ever, state-sponsored environmental program; **John Oliver**, Secretary of the PADCNr, promoting environmental stewardship in the state parks and forests; **John Stilley**, President of Amerikohl Mining, Inc., a surface coal mining company that has received state and national awards for reclamation ; **Margaret Dunn**, PG, President of the non-profit Stream Restoration Inc., involved in the restoration of abandoned minelands; **David Johnston**, Director of the Butler County Planning Commission involved in watershed efforts and landuse issues relating to abandoned minelands restoration. **This was a unique opportunity with experts from state and local government, environmental companies, the mining industry, and non-profits.** (Special thanks to **Connie White, New Wilmington School District** for bringing her students, who asked well thought-out questions!!! Special thanks to **Dr. Valentine Kefeli**, who first presented the idea for the panel.)

WESTMINSTER STUDENTS CONDUCT RESEARCH AT JENNINGS



Early this year, Westminster College seniors **Jessica Beham, Jennifer Bennett, Katherine Borden, Christopher Hall, Joshua Martin, Seth Rice, and Christina Zahniser**, under the direction of **Dr. Joseph Balczon and Dr. Timothy Wooster**, initiated a research project at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Two replicated model passive treatment systems were established utilizing two organic constituents, untreated saw dust and aquatic macrophyte compost, as well as river gravel and limestone in the project design. The overall purpose of the project was to examine the ability of each system to reduce the concentration of iron, aluminum, and nickel in the discharged water as a result of contact with system substrate and chemistry.

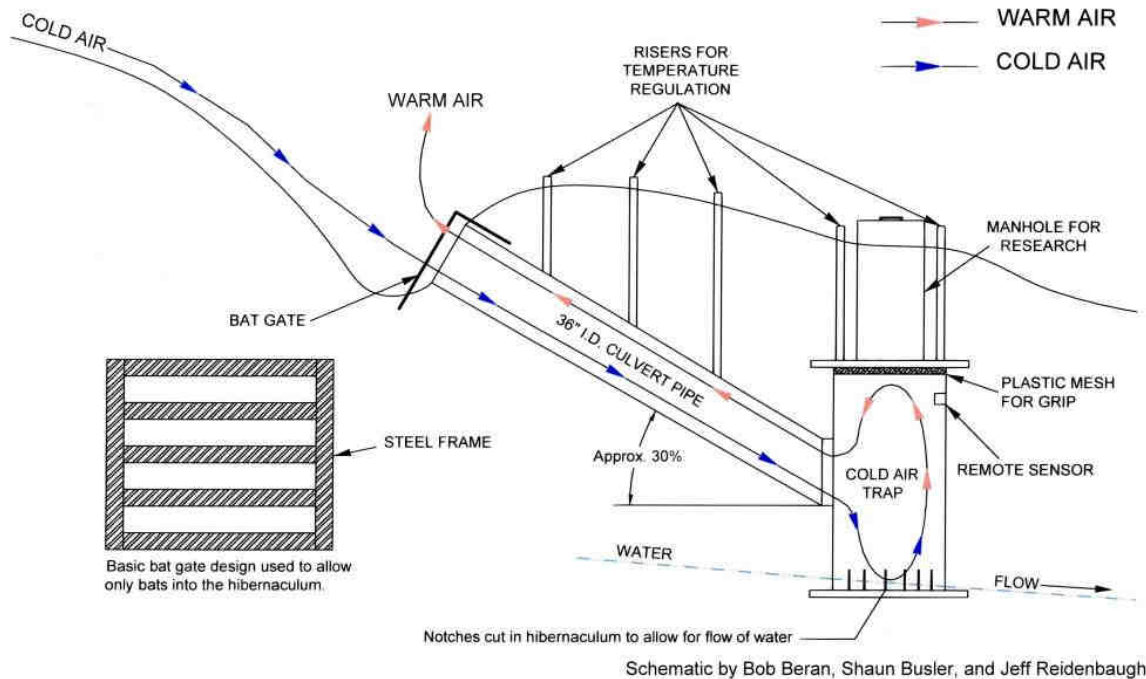
Thanks for the excellent presentation at the Symposium!
We cannot wait to hear the results!



THE BATTY CATALYST

ANNOUNCING THE UNVEILING OF THE BAT HIBERNACULUM AT

AN IDEA...



TURNED INTO REALITY!!!



SYMPOSIUM FIELD TOUR

Following lunch, we put on our boots (and boy, we sure needed them!) and headed out into the field, to see what all of this is really about. We visited De Sale Phase I and Goff Station Restoration Areas. Goff Station was the first site of the tour, which in addition to the very interesting passive treatment system that has been constructed by Quality Aggregates Inc. also includes a man-made bat hibernaculum. Thanks to **Kelly Meinhart** (right) for coming out to film the installation of the bat hibernaculum and the Goff Station site. Be sure to watch the feature on **Watershed Weekly** sometime in the coming months!





JENNINGS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER SPRINGS INTO ACTION

For the eighth year in a row the dynamic spirit of volunteerism that fuels the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition was harnessed for a day at Jennings Environmental Center. Over a hundred enthusiastic volunteers turned out on a dreary Saturday morning to celebrate Earth Day by helping their local park.

Armed with heavy gloves, mattocks, paint buckets, rakes, and Pulaski axes, workers aged 12 to 82 gave a much needed facelift to Jennings passive treatment system and added a set of new drainage pipes. Meanwhile troops of scouts painted bridges and installed water bars and drains throughout the park. Other volunteers scoured the roads and streams which amble through the park removing trash and exotic invasive plant species. Through-out the park, clogged drains were cleared, gravel was raked, two bridges were built, signs were painted and a composting bin was even constructed. Sitting tired on the top of the ridge, one boy scout was heard saying, "Wow, I had no idea we could do this, I can't wait to show my mother what I helped build today. From now on, this trail belongs to me too."

Exhausted, proud and muddied by their accomplishments the work teams poured into Jennings Center for a hearty lunch and a special "Spring into Action" T-shirt designed by a fellow volunteer. As the day wound to a close binoculars, fishing gear and berry bushes were raffled off to excited participants.

Jennings wishes to thank all the super people who made this year yet another phenomenal success. Special thanks are in order to **Giant Eagle, the Bulter Garden Club, King's Family Restaurant, Titlers' Special Tees, Natili's, Appalachian Trails LTD, Marti Outdoor Extreme, Eisler Nurseries, General Electric, Dean Dairy, Wild Birds Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Social Services Union.** No thanks would be complete without thanking each and every one of those hardy volunteers, many of whom have come back year after year, who lent their unique skills and expertise to making Jennings the wonderful place that it is.

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. May Distribution: 692 copies



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