

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday October 11 @ 7:00 PM, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Pizza and Pop will be provided!! 9/13/01 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, C. Cooper, J. Belgredan, F. Brenner, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor, M. Dunn, T. Danehy, D. Johnson, D. DeNicola

### **Butler County Commissioners Donate \$180,000 to Slippery Rock Watershed Restoration Projects!!!!!!**



The **Butler County Commissioners** have generously donated an amazing \$180,000 to two SRWC restoration projects located in Venango Twp., Butler County!!! They gave \$120,000 to the Erico Bridge Restoration Project, which will include the removal of gob piles, some of which are situated in Seaton Creek, and the installation of the largest known Anoxic Limestone Drain within PA!!! In addition, large wetlands will also be created at the Erico Bridge site. The County Commissioners also gave \$60,000 to the De Sale Phase III project which is planned to be an innovative system to treat abandoned mine drainage with a high metals concentration!!! This funding is in addition to the Growing

Greener Funding provided by the PA DEP and the in-kind contributions among the project partners.

To **James Kennedy, Glen Anderson, and Joan Chew** we would all like to say:

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND MAKING THIS PROJECT HAPPEN!!!!!!**

### **Jack Dams at De Sale**

On August 17th, **Shaun Busler** of **Stream Restoration Inc.**, and **Nick Morgan** (see photos below) of **Grove City College** under the direction of **Dr. Fred Brenner**, professor at Grove City College, constructed jack dams of various sized limestone donated by **Quality Aggregates' Boyers Quarry**. The jack dams were strategically placed in unnamed tributaries of Seaton Creek, with the hope of reducing acidity and increasing alkalinity. Monitoring these jack dams has been and will continue to be conducted by Grove City College students. Monitoring has already indicated a decrease in acidity.





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## **Saving Slider Turtle!!!**

On September 6th, **Paula Langsdale**, a Cranberry Township resident and Mohawk Elementary Special Education teacher, happened to notice while driving home on the PA Turnpike a little turtle trying to cross the road amongst rush hour traffic. Paula, pulled off the side of the road, made a literal mad dash across the two lanes of speeding east bound traffic, picked up the turtle and ran back hoping not to get hit herself. She contacted **Stream Restoration Incorporated** who told her to bring it on in. Stream Restoration in turn handed it over to **Bob Beran** of **Aquascape**, who with the help of his son **Matt** (pictured above holding the turtle) released it into the final polishing wetland of the **Goff Station Restoration Area** on September 9th. **Bob Beran** identified the turtle as being a Pond Slider Turtle. Pond Slider Turtles are typically found from Virginia to Florida and West to New Mexico as well as down into South America; however, they are also very popular as pets and probably had just been dropped off at some convenient location. But thanks to Paula and members of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition the turtle has a new home where he should be quite happy. Pond Slider Turtles prefer calm waters, with soft bottoms, and dense vegetation which makes the final wetland an ideal habitat.

## **SRWC in the Pittsburgh Tribune**

We hope you saw **Laura Spencer** and **Bob Beran** of **Aquascape** wading in the iron sludge at the Erico Bridge Restoration Area in a wonderful article written by **Larry Sonata** of the **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**. The excellent photos were taken by **Joe Appel** also of the Tribune Review. If you missed it, the article appeared in the Butler County section on August 9, 2001. The article can be found at [www. Triblive.com/search/](http://www.Triblive.com/search/). Then under the search enter : Seaton Creek.

## **SRWC's Dr. Valentine Kefeli Teaches Soils Lab Course**

**Dr. Valentine Kefeli** of the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition** has teamed up with **Professor Bruno Borsari** of **Slippery Rock University** to teach a lab course entitled "Soils as a Resource" at the Macoskey Center, Slippery Rock University, for the Fall 2001 Semester. The course will include a wide variety of topics ranging from soil as an ecosystem to Carbon/Nitrogen Ratios to chemical and physical parameters of soil to polluted soils. Dr. Valentine will also include in this course aspects of his work involving fabricated soils for landscape reclamation.

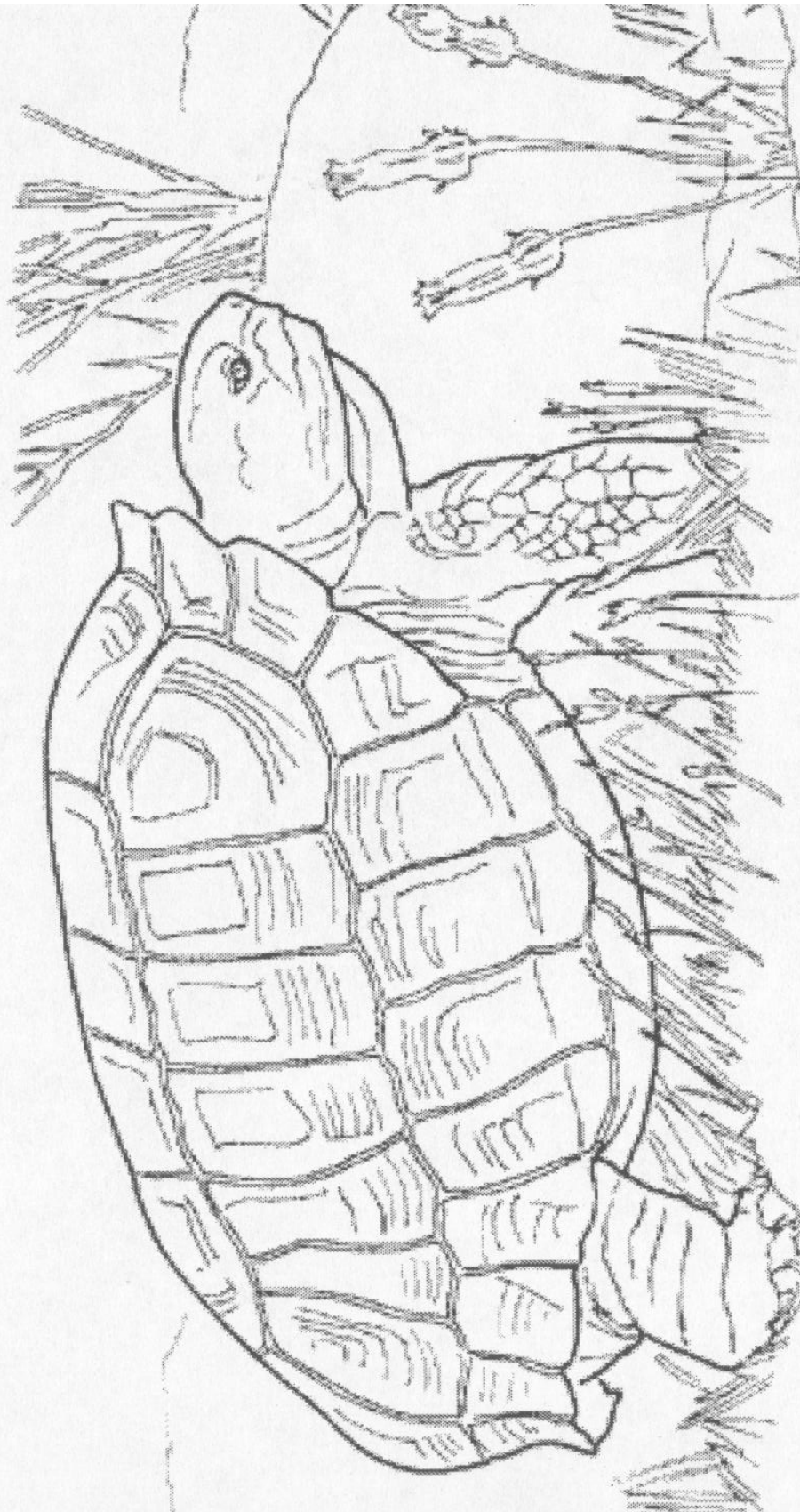


# The **KIDS** Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITIES

### Turtle Color Page

Color the picture and send it into the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition to get a free gift certificate.



Turtles are reptiles that have outer shells and lay eggs. There are over 250 different kinds of turtles.

Different kinds of turtles live in different kinds of places. Some live in hot dry deserts, while others live in cool mountains. Some live in forests while others live in the oceans. Many like to live in ponds and wetlands. Wetlands are also known as marshes, bogs, and swamps. Check out the article about the pond slider turtle on the opposite page.

The largest turtle is the Leatherback Sea Turtle which lives in the ocean and can be 6-8 feet long and weigh between 1,200 and 1,500 lbs. The smallest turtle is the Bog Turtle which is only 3-4 inches long. Different turtles also eat different things. Most turtles eat plants, insects, or small fish. Turtles can live to be about 30-40 years old, but some live to be over 100 years old. The large tortoise that lives on the Galapagos Islands can live to be 200 years old.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



## **Going Batty...Mist Netting at Goff Station**

On a warm summer night in late August, a group of about 25 people representing various organizations and government agencies including members of the **PA Game Commission, PA DCNR, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, and students from Slippery Rock University** came together to answer a question: Are there bats at Goff Station and will they use or are they using the bat boxes and hibernaculum? A tour of Goff Station was conducted by **Bob Beran of Aquascape** for those unfamiliar with the site. Inspections of the bat boxes revealed a bat was using one of the boxes. As dusk approached, two nets were set up and then we waited. We saw lots and lots of bats.....flying around, but no bats were actually caught in the net so we could not identify what type or types of bats were there. The important thing is bats were there and we were very excited about it despite not catching any, besides we all had a great time!!! There are plans to do it again one more time in the next couple of weeks with **Dr. Fred Brenner of Grove City College, Will Taylor of the PA DCNR's Jennings Environmental Education Center, and Bob Beran.**



On a related note **Cal Butchkowski**, of the **PA Game Commission** has installed remote sensing equipment so that we can monitor conditions within the bat hibernaculum such as temperature. This information can then be used to try to maintain optimal conditions for wintering bats.

Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corporation and PA DEP 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](mailto:sri@salsgiver.com), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). October Distribution: 774 copies



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 434  
CRANBERRY, PA