

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Due to scheduling conflicts, this month's meeting has been canceled.

5/09/02 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, T. Danehy, V. Kefeli, M. Dunn, J. Reidenbaugh, D. Funkhouser, C. Treter, S. Busler, F. Brenner, & C. Denholm

SRWC Get-Together - A Hit

Once again the SRWC Annual Get-Together was a smash hit... literally! Good people, good food, and good times!!! What more could you ask for? Door prizes? Yep, there were lots of wonderful door prizes given away. Thanks to **Quality Aggregates** for donating the Pirate tickets!... Piñatas? You Bet!!! The piñatas were once again the highlight of the event with children laughing and smiling while swinging at paper mache animals full of goodies. It is always great to see everyone getting together to relax and have a good time. I think it makes us all wish we could have a Monthly Get-Together instead of only once a year. Thanks to **Gloria Dematteis** and the **Epiphany Catholic Church** for allowing us to use their facilities and putting up with us! Thanks to all who came out! We can't wait to do it all again next year!!!



The Peruvian Connection

As previously reported in recent issues of *The Catalyst*, members of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition traveled to Phoenix, Arizona this past February to participate in the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) annual meeting where we held two sessions entitled "Conquering AML issues with Public-Private Partnerships". **Steven Botts**, Chairman of the Environmental Division of SME and Vice President of **Compañía Minera Antamina**, a large mining company in Peru, attended our sessions. Afterwards he expressed that he was inspired by the partnering spirit of the Coalition and our accomplishments and that he was doing something similar in Peru. Several weeks later he contacted us to send two people from Peru to visit our projects and share experiences.



Our first visitor was **Lorenzo de la Puente** an environmental lawyer with Estudio Grau Environmental Group. Lorenzo flew into Pittsburgh on April 3 and was immediately whisked away on a whirlwind tour of the Slippery Rock Watershed that included stops at Grove City College, Jennings Environmental Education Center, and Goff Station and Erico Bridge Reclamation Areas. It was a short visit but enjoyable to all involved. See **Lorenzo** (far left) pictured with **Laura Spencer**, Aquascape, **Margaret Dunn**, Stream Restoration, along with **Kevin Stiner**, **John Stoops**, and **Mike Colosimo** of Quality Aggregates at Erico Bridge.

Our second visitor was **Rosa Ocaña** who is part of Antamina's environmental, safety, and health division. She arrived in Pittsburgh on

April 11 just to attend our Symposium!!! Rosa was able to stay a few days and had the opportunity to talk to many people including **PA DEP Secretary David Hess** and **Margaret Dunn**, Stream Restoration (pictured below with Rosa on the far right). On Friday evening after the Symposium, we had the opportunity to take Rosa to Pittsburgh to ride the incline to Mt. Washington that overlooks the city and the Three Rivers and just happened to see the fireworks that followed a Pirate's baseball game!

It was very exciting and a true honor for us that Lorenzo and Rosa would take time out from their busy schedules to visit and learn more about our watershed activities. Thanks to **Larry Sanata** for sharing our excitement with readers of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review in the April 21st article entitled "Peruvian company gets local advice."



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The "Spring Into Action" Volunteer Crew at Jennings Environmental Education Center

Accepting the Challenge Update

Accepting the Challenge was recently included in an educational package put together by the Butler County Historical Society that is being distributed to 5th grade classrooms throughout Butler County. In addition to the 90 classrooms, the boxes full of educational materials that focus on Butler County history will be sent to libraries throughout the county and made accessible to home-school students and others who are interested. The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is very excited about the wonderful opportunity to reach out to students and inform them about the mining history, AMD, and passive treatment systems that exist in their communities and have donated 100 copies of the book for this excellent educational purpose.

Adjudicated Youth & the SRWC Update

The Butler County Adjudicated Youth Program and the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition were recently featured in an article of the **Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice** newsletter. The article discussed the program and their involvement with the SRWC, especially with the Goff Station Restoration Area. The article also mentioned **Aquascape** and **Quality Aggregates** who were extremely active in working with the youth on this project. The SRWC looks forward to working with them more this summer at the Erico Bridge and De Sale Phase II site.



Erico Bridge Wetland Planting!!!

Work on the Erico Bridge Wetlands has begun!!!!. Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Volunteers and local resident and AmeriCorp volunteer **Annie Norman** came out for a wetland planting on Saturday May 11th. The constructed naturally functioning wetland is being built in the "footprint" of a coal refuse pile that was removed through a Growing Greener Grant. These are the same piles featured in the Nov. 2001 issue. If you would like to participate in future plantings contact us at 724-776-0161.

Kid's Day at College

On Saturday April 27th, about 150 4th grade students from around the region got to attend college for a day at Slippery Rock University's "Kid's Day at College". The program sponsored by the **Institute for Community Learning** had a variety of classes for the kids to attend such as science, art, dance, & ROTC. Afterwards they had lunch, a graduation ceremony and attended a Slippery Rock University baseball game.

Not only did the kids have their day at college, but so did the parents. **Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration**, taught two classes for parents on abandoned mine drainage and passive treatment systems. He covered how mine drainage forms, the difference between past mining methods and present day mining methods, and what are passive systems and how they work. He also discussed the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, focusing on the De Sale and Goff Station Restoration Areas, as well as presented an overview of our accomplishments.

"Spring into Action" at Jennings!

April 27th was a busy day this year for participants of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. While Cliff was at Slippery Rock for Kid's Day at College, **Deanna Funkhouser, Chris Treter, Janice Belgraden, Valentine Kefeli, Charlie Cooper, and Shaun Busler** participated in the Jennings Environmental Education Center's annual "Spring into Action" Day. About 100 volunteers from surrounding communities helped to spruce up the Center by completing various tasks and projects such as fixing walkways, building steps, and working on **Dr. Valentine Kefeli's** fabricated soil project (See left photo below). All volunteers received a free T-shirt and lunch.

We always try to help out our generous and gracious friends and partners at Jennings whenever we can. We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to all the folks who showed up, worked hard, and got dirty to help make Jennings an even better place!!!

Butler County Chapter of PA Cleanways Cleans up Big Run!

Indeed April 27th was a busy day this year. Before going to "Spring into Action", **Shaun Busler, Stream Restoration**, participated with the **Butler County Chapter of PA Cleanways** and the **Butler County Adjudicated Youth** program (See right below photo) to pick up garbage along a tributary to Big Run, which flows through the Jennings Environmental Education Center. This was the first cleanup for this newly formed Chapter. About 20 volunteers helped with the cleanup removing about two dump truck loads of garbage. Thanks to **Brady Township** for providing the trucks and the **Northwest Sanitary Landfill** for taking the garbage free of charge. For more information about how to get involved with the Butler County Chapter of PA Cleanways contact Sheryl Kelly at 724-284-5305.



The KIDS Catalyst Challenge

The Kids Catalyst that we all know and love will return next month, but until then will you accept The Kids Catalyst Challenge? Create your own Kid's Catalyst activity focusing on watersheds, mining, or the environment and send it to us. The best one will be featured in a future Catalyst issue. All entries will receive a gift certificate.

More about...

The Symposium

We are still so excited about how well this year's Symposium went, we just had to talk about it a little bit more!!! We are particularly excited about the student presentations on Thursday night's events. Not only were they all excellent, but there was also quite a variety of interesting topics. The presentations followed a special dinner for the students to connect with a variety of professionals in related fields. The presentations included:

The Impact of Acid Mine Drainage on the Seaton Creek Watershed by Susan Larue & Jamie Skolada, Grove City College, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Fred Brenner

Plant Biotests for Soil and Water by Michele Gauger & Theresa Reustle, Slippery Rock University, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Bruno Borsari and Dr. Valentine Kefeli

Exploring the Spatial Relationships between Benthic Communities and Acid Mine Drainage in Slippery Rock Creek, using Geographic Information Systems by Joelle Kerr, Slippery Rock University, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Dean DeNicola

Treatment Performance of the Vertical Flow System at the Jennings Environmental Education center, 1999-2002 by Todd Crouch, Slippery Rock University, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Michael Stapleton

A Feasibility Study for the Implementation of Rotational Grazing in Western Pennsylvania by Timothy Elder, Slippery Rock University, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Bruno Borsari

The Challenges of Greywater Treatment: A Unique Tool for the Study of Small Flows Remediation at Slippery Rock University by Spencer Welton, Slippery Rock University, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Bruno Borsari

Preliminary Report on the Core Sampling of the Vertical Flow System at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2-21-02 by Craig Fisher, Joselyn Hohenwarter, Rachel Orwan, & Kirk Sander, Slippery Rock University, Supervising Faculty: Dr. Michael Stapleton

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