

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday September 12th at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 08/08/02 Meeting Attendance: T. Danehy, M. Dunn, S. Short, D. Johnson, C. Cooper, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor, C. Denholm

### Fish Found in Slippery Rock and Seaton Creek!!!

A recent aquatic survey of certain sections of Slippery Rock and Seaton Creek found fish and macroinvertebrates indicating the continuing biological recovery of these streams. The survey was led by **Dr. Fred Brenner** of Grove City College who was assisted by **Shaun Busler, Chris Treter,** and **Steve Short** (OSM Intern). We are all extremely excited about what we have found and amazed at the speedy recovery. At one sampling location at McJunkin Road along Seaton Creek where fish were found, the water quality has gone from an acidic, low pH (4.5) with elevated metals to a net-alkaline, pH ~ 7, and significantly lower metal concentrations. This improvement was noted after De Sale Phase I and II were placed on line. A third passive treatment system De Sale Phase III is currently under construction and is expected to further improve the creek. Some of these sections of stream have been devoid of aquatic life for nearly 100 years!! It is truly amazing what people can accomplish when they work together towards a common goal.



### The 1st Annual Riverboat Cruise “Celebrating the Ohio River Watershed”

On Thursday September 19th, the 1st Annual Riverboat Cruise will be held. This year's theme is “Celebrating the Ohio River Watershed!” This pre-conference event is the day before the PA Watershed Conference which will be held on the 20th and 21st at the Sheraton in Greensburg. It will be a wonderful experience for all who attend. We will travel the Monogahala River to the Braddock Lock and Dam. After that we will travel the Allegheny as far as time permits. While on the river, there will be short narratives, highlighting the improvements in the Ohio River Watershed during the last 100 years. There will be experts with “Ask Me” badges, and you will get one-on-one answers to your questions. While enjoying light refreshments and entertainment (the **World Champion Ragtime Piano Player, Dan Mouyard**), you will have the opportunity to network with a diverse and interesting group of people. Funding and support for this event has been provided by private industry, local, state, and federal agencies, charitable foundations, and numerous watershed groups. We will be sailing on the Party Liner, a member of the Gateway Clipper Fleet, from their Station Square dock. Boarding will begin at 2 pm and we will return at approximately 5:30 pm. Complimentary tickets are limited and are offered on a first-come-first-served basis. Please e-mail [cschein@state.pa.us](mailto:cschein@state.pa.us) with your information if you are interested.



### Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

On August 16, 2002 the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition completed its very first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup along Interstate 79 (mile marker 100-101) near the New Castle/Butler Exit. **Shaun Busler, Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Margaret Dunn, Deanna Treter,** and **Chris Treter** participated in the cleanup in which approximately 40 bags of garbage were collected. A somewhat surprising yet positive note was that it seemed that the largest portion of the trash collected were pieces of tires and not litter from people throwing trash out their windows. In addition to the typical cans, bottles, and cigarette butts, some of the more interesting items found along this major interstate highway included an engine coolant reservoir, a “shallow water no diving sign”, a folding chair, underwear, and a disposable diaper. Although we were all tired, thirsty, sweaty and dirty we had a good time volunteering for a good cause! Thanks to all who came out to help!

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**Dr Fred Brenner** (Grove City College) and **Shaun Busler** (Stream Restoration Inc.) conduct an electrofishing survey. See the article on the front page for more!

## Coring of the Jennings Vertical Flow Pond

On August 15, 2002, nine cores were taken of the treatment medium in the Vertical Flow Pond at the demonstration site located at Jennings Environmental Education Center. One core was also taken from a test tank designed to mimic the full-scale system. The coring was conducted by **Dr. Fred Brenner** of **Grove City College**, **Shaun Busler** of **Stream Restoration**, **Charlie Cooper** of **CDS Associates**, and **Ray Markle** and **Gary Jenkins** of **Jennings**. The cores were taken on a grid system and located by survey. Once removed they were examined, photographed and preserved so that they could be analyzed by **Ed Nowacki** of **AK Steel** in Butler, PA. One sample will be analyzed using X-ray diffraction! This will reveal the minerals present which will help to indicate what reactions are occurring as the mine drainage travels down through the Vertical Flow Pond. We are all very excited about seeing the results and of course will keep everyone updated. A big thanks to **Ed Nowacki** and **AK Steel** for their generous contributions!!!

## Mist Netting at Goff Station

A mist netting was conducted on August 14, 2002 to determine the species of bats present at the Goff Station Restoration Area. **Cal Butchkoski** of the **Pennsylvania Game Commission** led the mist netting with additional assistance provided by **Missy Sneath**, **Mindy Bazella**, and **Kasey Chaney**, Wildlife Biologist Aids. Cal helped the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition choose the location and aided in the design of the bat hibernaculum constructed at the site. **Will Taylor** of **Jennings Environmental Education Center** brought a group of teachers from his bat workshop to learn about mist netting and hopefully see a bat up close. The evening was deemed a success and everyone learned a great deal! Two brown bats, one Red bat, and two flying squirrels were caught in the mist net, identified and then released!!! Now that we know what bats are present, we can continue to monitor over the years to see if diversity increases and also to try to adjust the temperature within the hibernaculum to better accommodate the bats within the area. We hope that some of these bats will utilize the hibernaculum this winter and start a new colony increasing the wildlife diversity at this wonderful private-public partnership project! Thanks to all who came out!





# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



## WORDSEARCH

See if you can find these 10 words in the word search. All ten of these words appeared in other articles in this issue of the Catalyst. If you want to learn more about any of these things, try to find these words in the articles.

We will be releasing a coloring book based on the Kid's Catalyst this month! To read more about it see the article on the back of this months Catalyst.

### WORDBANK

INTERN	HIGHWAY	BAT	FISH	WATERSHED
AQUATIC	CLEANUP	RIVERBOAT	NET	SLIPPERY ROCK

t	j	x	k	a	j	o	o	d	i	w	b	g	k	a	y	c	r
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r	i	m	n	z	a	z	k	f	e	n	n	s	r	s	p	u	i
g	d	c	s	q	d	x	d	f	r	x	r	l	j	w	o	j	s
c	o	l	p	k	u	r	s	f	n	l	i	n	e	t	g	v	h
p	p	e	w	h	e	b	a	m	x	h	v	t	n	g	k	h	e
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k	j	o	o	v	k	x	g	q	j	b	a	b	t	c	o	s	v
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Now Introducing: THE INTERNS

### Steve Short

Steve is going to be a Junior Biology major at Grove City College. He is SRI's OSM intern this summer. Steve has been out in the field and has been helping out around the office. Steve has been a hard worker and has contributed a lot to the office. Thank you Steve, you really are a big help!!! See the photo of him taking flow measurements from the Oxidic Limestone Drain at SR96 to the left!

### Matt Bramble

Matt is a computer prodigy in 11th grade at Evangel Heights Christian Academy. He is helping us this summer with updating and getting the SRWC website in order. Matt has uploaded the online version of recent Catalyst issues and has created a fantastic, easy to browse Catalyst Archive. Future website updates include uploading pre-1998 issues of the Catalyst and revising several pages. If you get a chance, check it out at [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org)! Thank you Matt for sharing your talents with us!!! Look for a fully updated website in the future. See the photo of Matt to the



COMING SOON... The ABC's of Our Watershed

On the 1st Annual Riverboat Cruise, the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition will be unveiling its second publication. This time it will be a coloring book designed and drawn by **Chris Treter**. Chris Treter will be on the boat to hand out the first copies. The book is filled with things from within our own Slippery Rock Creek Watershed! The pages of this wonderful book are similar to our Kids Catalyst. We are very excited about our newest publication! Future plans include a series of books for children about restoration efforts. We would like to thank Quality Aggregates, Aquascape, BioMost Inc., and Stream Restoration Inc. for their support of this publication. If you are interested in either receiving a copy or supporting the publication of this book, please contact Deanna Treter at 724-776-0161 or write to 3016 Unionville Rd. Cranberry Twp., PA 16066.

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). September Distribution: 923 copies



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