

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday January 9th at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 12/12/02 Meeting Attendance: T. Danehy, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, C. Cooper, V. Kefeli, C. Denholm, W. Taylor, S. Busler, F. Brenner, T. Gillen, C. Yeungling, L. Odenthal, E. Heferle, and E. Nowacki.

Students Discover the Worth of Wetlands, Coal Mining, and Passive Treatment at Jennings Environmental Education Center



This fall students from 5th grade to the college level discovered how coal has influenced the history, culture, and environment of western Pennsylvania. From September to November, over 500 students visited Jennings Environmental Education Center and participated in programs developed and conducted by **Will Taylor, Eric Best, Miranda Crotley, and Mary Jo Shreffler**. These programs range from discovering what a wetland is and the value of natural and man-made wetlands, to discussing the geology of coal, the life of a coal miner around the turn of the century to the mid-40's, and how abandoned mine drainage is treated by the Passive Treatment Systems at Jennings.

These programs have become a popular request as teachers and students find them both fun and educational. Approximately 25% of the students that visited Jennings this

fall participated in programs that related to coal mining and abandoned mine drainage. The schools that participated in the programs this fall came from many parts of central and western Pennsylvania including: **East elementary, Greenville; Worthington Baptist Christian Academy, Worthington; Penn State DuBois; Slippery Rock University; Evangel Heights Christian Academy, Sarver; Mercer H.S., Mercer; Butler County Community College; Moniteau H.S., West Sunbury and West Middlesex H.S., West Middlesex.**

In the upper left photo you can see students from West Middlesex High School take pH, alkalinity, and iron tests of the untreated mine drainage as it flows from the abandoned Foltz Hill mine. In the lower right photo you can see a student recording the biological parameters of Big Run, a stream recovering from the effects of abandoned mine drainage.



Annual SRWC Symposium—April 10, 11, & 13 Save The Date!!!

The 2003 SRWC Symposium has been scheduled. The college evening presentations will take place on Thursday, April 10th. Our full day portion will take place on Friday, April 11th. And the Community Day will be on Sunday April 13th. We hope you will all mark your calendars now that we are officially in the year 2003!!! Times for these events will follow in future Catalysts.

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Alayna (left) and **Sierra** (right) **Denholm** pose in t-shirts saying “I’m An SRWC Baby!”

SRWC Participant to Speak to Grove City College Class about Life Experiences

Valentine Kefeli a soil scientist by training moved to the US from Russia. Valentine speaks 7 languages and has presented in front of international audiences. Valentine will be speaking on January 16th at 9:30 am to a Grove City College intersession class in Room 218 in Rockwell. **Dr. Paul Kengor**, an associate professor of political science at Grove City College, invited Valentine to speak about his native Russia. His topic will be “The Stalin Doctrine of the Totalitarian Soviet State.” We wish Valentine the best of luck and we hope that the students take advantage of this opportunity.

TMDL Meeting Last Month, a Recap

At the December 12th SRWC meeting representatives of the PA DEP were present to help explain the TMDL process. Those representatives were: **Tim Gillen**, **Chuck Yeungling**, **Lori Odenthal**, and **Elias Heferle**. They presented draft TMDL plans for Seaton Creek and Blacks Creek, which are tributaries to the Slippery Rock Creek, and Fowler Run which is a tributary to Redbank Creek. Participants of the SRWC discussed with them the TMDL process and reviewed copies of the plans.

The PA DEP representatives were very successful in simplifying a complex process, in a “nutshell,” TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load and it helps determine the amount of pollutants that can enter the water and still stay within safe water quality standards. The Clean Water Act requires that TMDLs be completed and submitted to the EPA for approval. The nation wide goal for water quality, set by the Clean Water Act, is that all waters are to be “fishable” and “swimable.”

If you would like more information about TMDLs or to request a copy of the full report contact Elias J. Heferle at (814) 797-1191 during business hours of 8 am to 4:30 pm or by writing him at the Knox District Mining Office, White Memorial Building P.O. Box 669, Knox, PA 16232-0669 or e-mail at ehferle@dep.state.pa.us. The deadline for written comments is February 4, 2003. They must be postmarked by that date and they can be sent to the address above.

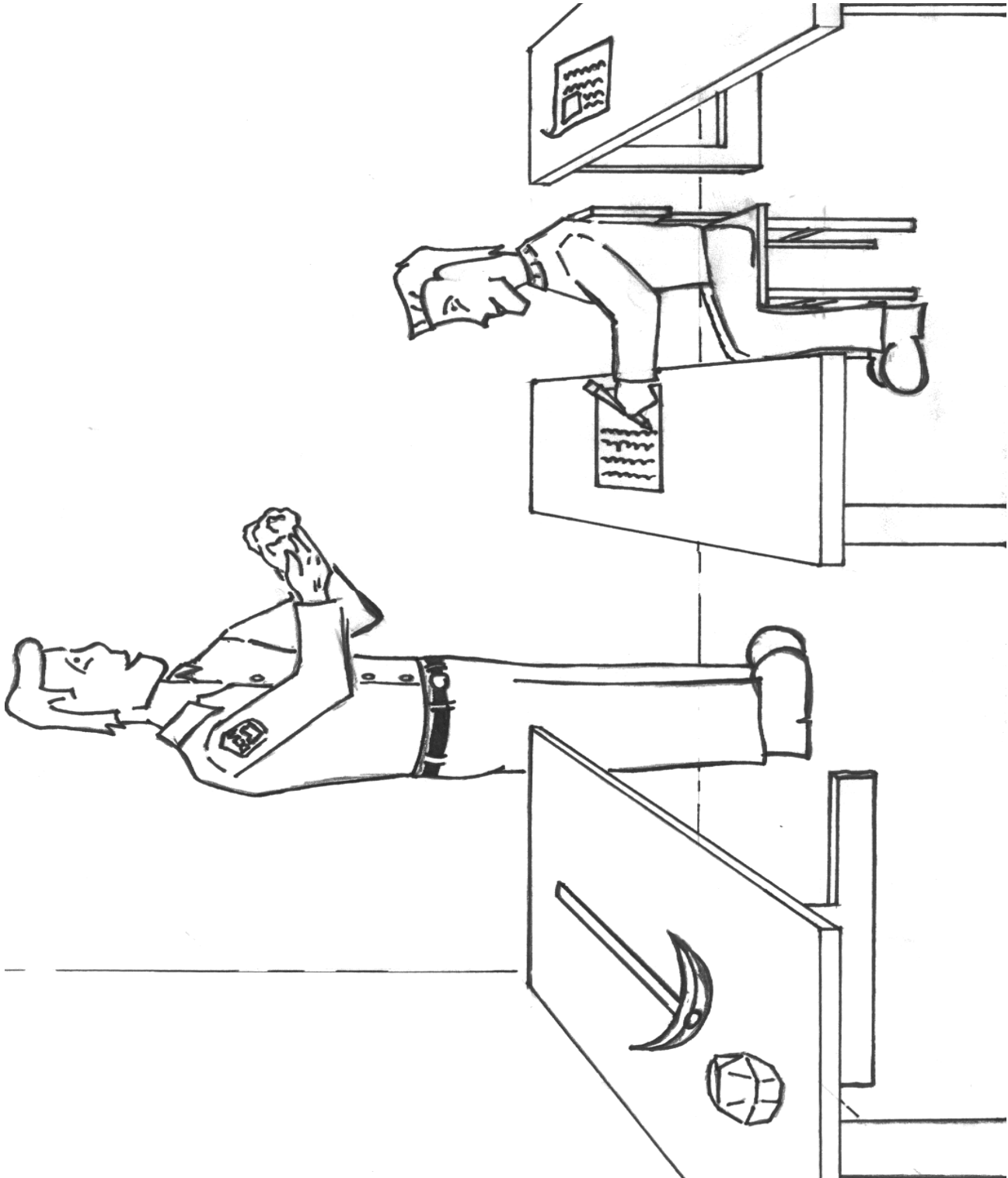
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Learning at Jennings

As you read in the article on the front page, Jennings Environmental Education Center teaches kids about a lot of different things. They talk about the history, culture, and environment of western Pennsylvania. The picture below shows kids like you learning about these things at Jennings. Color in this picture and send it back to us for a gift certificate.

If you would like more information about Jennings Educational Opportunities call 724-794-6011!!



Name _____ Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
3016 Unionville Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., BioMost, 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, www.srwc.org. January Distribution: 959 copies

Grove City College Professor, Dr. Fred Brenner, In The News!!



Dr. Fred J. Brenner, Professor of Biology at Grove City College was recently elected to a three year term as a member of the Electorate Nominating Committee of the Section on General Interest in Science and Engineering of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Brenner has been elected a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Ohio Academic of Science and has received the Life Time Achievement Award from the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Dr. Brenner has served as President of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society, President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science and Secretary and President of the National Association for the Advancement of Science and he is currently Vice-President of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honorary.

Dr. Brenner continues to work with students on independent research projects which have resulted in numerous publications coauthored by Grove City College Students. Most recently, two papers co-authored by **Shawn Rummel**, a senior biology major, entitled "Relationships between vegetation and bird populations on a reclaimed mine site and native grasslands" and "The use of bird communities as indicators of reclamation success" were accepted for publication in the Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science and the Proceedings of the American Society for Mining and Reclamation, respectively. Two book chapters: "Impacts of Renewable Energy Developments on Regional Ecology" and "Sustainable Agroecosystems: Productivity, Environmental Quality, and Renewable Energy" were also co-authored by Dr. Brenner and recent Grove City College Biology graduates, **Kimberly D. Kosick**, and **Corrie A. Gardner** and **Shawn T. Robinson** and **Joy H. Yates** were published in Renewable Energy: Trends and Prospects.

The photo to the upper left is Dr. Brenner presenting at the 2001 SRWC Symposium. The photo to the lower right is Dr. Brenner and one of his students, **Steve Short**, during a fish shocking survey in July of this year.

