

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday June 12th at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 5/08/03 Attendance: K. Lanich, J. Reidenbaugh, S. Busler, C. Cooper, M. Dunn, T. Danehy, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, and C. Denholm

It's I-79 Trash Pick Up Time Again!!!

On Friday June 27th we will once again pick up trash along our stretch of I-79 (between mile marker 100 and 101) We will meet at the "park 'n ride" off exit 99 (west on US 422) at noon for a free quick lunch. Then we will head out to make our little stretch of highway as clean as it can be! We hope you will come out and join us. Don't forget to dress appropriately and we will provide the safety vests and gloves. If you would like more information please call Deanna Treter at 724-776-0161.



Washington Elementary Students Help Plant SR-81

Although April 29th began with a hard rain, the weather cleared early, and the sun was shining by the time the second grade classes of **Washington Elementary School** (see photo to the right) arrived at the SR-81 passive treatment system. They were there to help **Dale Hockenberry** (PA Game Commission) (See



photo on left), **Bob Beran** (Aquascape Wetland and Environmental Services), and **Kim Lanich** (also of Aquascape) plant seedlings in the riparian and upland areas surrounding the system. The approximately 55 students were from the classes of **Amy Criley**, **Jen Fleeger**, and **Amy Tokar**, who, along with student teachers from Slippery Rock University (**Stacy Reed**, **Kelly Sewchok**, and **Tomi Swift**) and several of the students' parents (**Pat Beran**, **Kelli Kimmey**, **Cindy Lott**, **Norma Uber**, and **Lisa Ulrich**), chaperoned the event.



The afternoon began with Bob giving a brief ecological lesson and basic planting instructions (roots DOWN, of course!). The adults created planting holes and the students followed behind, placing a seedling in the created hole. The students worked hard and, in less than three hours, managed to plant over **1000 seedlings of 13 different species!!!** Although more than one pair of shoes (and pants, for that matter) was well muddied, the students enjoyed their chance to learn in the great outdoors. Our thanks to all who helped plan and conduct the planting, with a special thank you going to the **Butler County Conservation District** and **Ron Fodor** for donating the left-over seedlings from their annual sale. The SR-81 passive treatment system was funded through a Growing Greener grant.

SRWC Get-Together Was Great Fun!!!

On Friday May 2nd we met at the Epiphany Catholic Church in Boyers, PA for the SRWC's Annual Get-Together. We had good food while having good fun. Thanks to **Quality Aggregates** for donating pirates tickets!! The tickets were just some of the great door prizes given out. And of course we had piñatas. The kids enjoyed breaking them open and gathering up all the candy! Thanks to **Gloria Dematteis** and the **Epiphany Catholic Church** for allowing us to use their facilities and putting up with us. Thanks also to those who came out!!



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The participants of the Jennings Environmental Education Center Spring Into Action on April 26th!!

Jennings Environmental Education Center “Spring Into Action” Is A Huge Success

On Saturday April 26th, 110 participants joined forces to get the Jennings Environmental Education Center in Slippery Rock, PA ready for Spring! Some of the projects completed included: general trail work; removal of invasive species from the lower treatment ponds; staining of bridges, feeders, and fences; and placement of stream gauge/monitoring equipment in Big Run by Old Mill Bridge. A group of students from **VisionQuest** in Franklin did some cosmetic work (seeding, etc.) at the passive treatment system (PTS) site, and a group from **George Junior Republic** in Grove City also worked near the PTS site constructing a fence by the school house. An **Explorers** group cleaned up a section of Big Run, removing fallen trees, log jams, and trash. After completing all this hard work the participants were treated to a free lunch, free t-shirts, and a raffle of outdoor related products. Thanks to all those who went out to help!! (The photo above shows the whole wonderful group of participants after their hard work!)

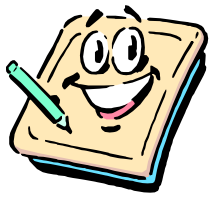
Watershed Academy Visits SRWC Sites

On Tuesday May 6th, the Watershed Academy for Local Government was held at the **McKee Environmental Education Center** in Sandy Lake, PA. **Tim Danehy** gave a presentation titled, “Partnering with Municipalities: A Watershed Association Perspectives on the Advantages.” **Sherry Carlin** from the Knox District Mining Office gave a presentation titled, “Watershed Impacts: Mining Activities.” Sherry also presented posters on Growing Greener that included SRWC Headwaters activities including Goff Station and DeSale Phase III. After the presentations, over 50 people, including township officials, mayors, and DEP personnel, went on a tour of Erico Bridge.

SRWC Participates in Evans City Earth Day Celebration

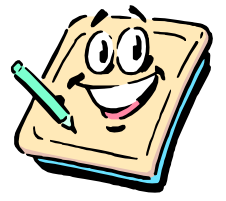


On Saturday May 3rd, Evans City celebrated Earth Day at the ECDO Park. The celebration included food, face painting, demonstrations, posters, and more. **Deanna Treter** and **Chris Treter** manned the SRWC poster and met lots of interesting people. Hundreds of people attended the festivities and took advantage of the beautiful May weather. The day’s activities were geared towards educating the public about a variety of environmental issues. Thanks to **Theresa Vaneman** of **Callery Chemicals** for inviting us to participate. We had a wonderful time and look forward to being a part of next year’s celebration!!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Word Seek and Find

All the words below can be found in articles from this months Catalyst. Find the words, circle them, and then send this back to us for a free gift certificate! Good Luck!

WORDBANK				
TRASH	STUDENTS	CONNECTIONS	PINATA	SPRING
ACADEMY	EARTH DAY	WETLAND	HIGHWAY	GET-TOGETHER

A	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	Z
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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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Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

Pittsburgh Area Creek Connections Student Research Symposium

On April 9, 2003, the second **Pittsburgh Area Creek Connections Student Research Symposium** was held at **Camp Kon-O-Kwee** along the banks of Connoquenessing Creek near Zelienople, PA. Over 300 people participated in the event including students, teachers, and environmental organizations. **Cliff Denholm**, from Stream Restoration Inc., was on-hand with a poster and to teach a group activity on abandoned mine drainage and passive treatment. The symposium kicked off with a welcoming by representatives of the **Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance**. The **Creek Freaks** from Seneca Valley School District informed the audience about the problems facing the Connoquenessing Creek watershed and the positive steps that have been taken to address those issues. Afterwards the day consisted of student presentations and poster sessions for students to interact with other students and environmental organizations. Some of the environmental organizations present included the **Pittsburgh National Aviary**, the **Carnegie Science Center**, **Carnegie Museum of Natural History**, **Pittsburgh Voyager**, and the **Butler County Conservation District**. After lunch students had the opportunity to partake in a variety of focus activities that ranged from sewage treatment to GPS to aquatic organisms.

Creek Connections is a program sponsored through **Allegheny College** that facilitates the involvement of public schools in western Pennsylvania and New York in natural science education through hands-on field and laboratory experiences. Classes participate in research projects and stream monitoring. An on-line database allows the students to share the data that they have collected. Then in April all participating schools and students gather together to share their research with each other at the annual Student Research Symposium. Students presented and displayed their water data and independent research projects allowing them to compare data and research projects that had been conducted in a wide variety of watersheds. Creek Connections now involves over 40 different schools and over 50 different classes. The large involvement has resulted in two separate symposiums. One at Allegheny College for northwestern Pennsylvania and New York region as well as one for the Pittsburgh region.

For more information about the Creek Connections program check out their website at <http://creekconnections.allegheny.edu>.