

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday October 9th at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 9/11/03 Attendance: J. Belgredan, S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, A. Pavlick, S. Smith, W. Taylor

### Cruising on the Allegheny River

The **2nd Annual Ohio River Watershed Riverboat Cruise** took place on Wednesday, September 17 with over 425 participants! This diverse group included watershed groups, business, industry, professionals, government, interested citizens, educators, and many homeschoolers! The day's activities began mid-morning, with folks arriving early at Station Square's Gateway Clipper dock in Pittsburgh to enjoy the pre-cruise festivities. As part of the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition (which originated in the Pittsburgh area), cruise participants were able to view artwork from talented western PA artist **Robert Griffing**, who specializes in depicting historically accurate scenes from this time period. In addition, cruise guests could interact with three Native American re-enactors, and explore an **Army Corps of Engineers** Discovery Trunk of Lewis and Clark replica artifacts. Those who arrived early were also treated to greetings from the seven Recycle Mascots—thank you to the **Fike and Bonetti kids** for wearing those costumes in the hot sun! Our big Kick-Off Event, covered on TV by



the **Pennsylvania Cable Network**, featured 4 interesting speakers and the **14 sponsors** and **46 partners** (to whom we owe a great deal of thanks). **Tom Grote** from the **Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance** was our outdoor emcee; **Denny Tubbs**, educator from the **PA Fish and Boat Commission**, explained our "Touch the Water" theme; **Roy Lenhardt** of the **National Audubon Society**, described activities offered at Beechwood Farms; and **Dave Sewak** of the **Westsylvania Heritage Corporation** spoke about how the rivers have changed over the years (and gave away 300 copies of the Westsylvania magazine as well as several lovely gift baskets!)

Thanks to the generosity of **Mike Gallagher** of **The Gateway Clipper**, we sailed aboard *The Majestic*, the largest boat of the fleet, and were able to take over 125 more folks than last year's cruise! During the 3-hour cruise, guests took advantage of the opportunity to network and to learn from **40 poster displays** brought by various organizations. As people boarded, 15-year old singer **Molly Maiolo** treated guests with her beautiful voice, singing classical songs and ending with the National Anthem. Thanks to **Maggie Hall** and **Dave Plank** of the **DEP**, cruise guests could listen to a guided narration describing points of interest we passed along the waters of the Allegheny. The *Majestic* squeezed through lock and dam #2, a fascinating event, with the **Army Corps of Engineers** providing a description of the action. On the downstream trip, a series of four interesting, educational mini presentations were done on a variety of watershed topics. **Denny Tubbs**, **Dr. Stanley States**, **Sean Brady**, and **Erin Cooley** held the attention of many folks on the second floor while others preferred the top deck's sunny warm weather and slight breeze. Yummy refreshments were enjoyed, and great door prizes given away, including a limited edition **Pittsburgh Steelers** football, tickets to a **Pittsburgh Penguins** game, and a valuable framed print by **Robert Griffing** donated by **Al Houston**. **Melissa Busler** of **Stream Restoration Inc.** organized activities for students. These included a coloring contest for kids ages 12 and younger, and a Student Challenge scavenger hunt activity paper for kids over 12—prizes were awarded to all who participated. A special thank you to these organizations whose displays were especially enjoyed by the students: The **National Aviary**, who brought a screech owl; The **Western PA Field Institute**, who brought a large tank of live fish caught in the three rivers the morning of the cruise; **Aquascape**, who brought plants and taught how to identify species using keys; **Army Corps of Engineers**, who brought the Lewis and Clark replica artifacts Discovery Trunk; **Wells Creek Watershed Association**, who brought a snapping turtle; and **Pittsburgh Voyager**, who brought water testing equipment for the kids to experiment with. This fun event was a huge success and would never have happened without the cooperation of many individuals and organizations. We give special recognition to **John Dawes** of the **Western PA Watershed Program**, the **Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh**, and **Stream Restoration Inc.** for their funding; a complete list of cruise Sponsors and Partners appears in the H.O.P.E. portion of this month's Catalyst (see back page). If you missed the cruise this year, be sure to join us for the 3rd Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration cruise in Sept. 2004!



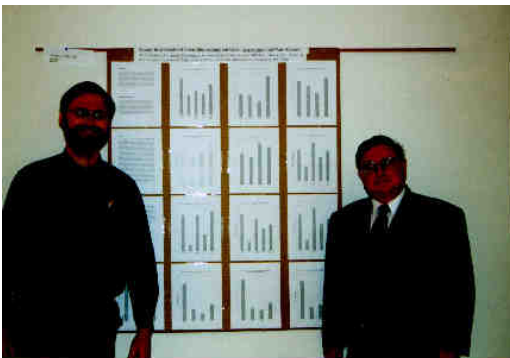
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Passengers board The Gateway Clipper Fleet's Majestic for the 2nd Annual Ohio River Watershed Cruise. Over 425 individuals participated in the Sept. 17 event!  
(see feature article on front page)

### SRWC's Soil Scientist to Speak at Slippery Rock University



On Thursday, October 16, **Dr. Valentine Kefeli** of the **SRWC** and **Bio-Most, Inc.** will be speaking on the campus of Slippery Rock University in a program entitled "Land Stewardship and Management Through a Renovated Approach in Plant-Soil Studies." **Dr. Kefeli**, a soil scientist, will be speaking with **Dr. Maria Kalevitch**, assistant professor of Biology at **Robert Morris University**, and **Dr. Bruno Borsari**, assistant professor in the Parks and Recreation/Environmental Education-Sustainable Systems Program at **Slippery Rock University**. These three authors of the important new book on natural growth inhibitors in plants (Natural Growth Inhibitors and Phytohormones in Plants and Environment) will share their expertise in a presentation and discussion of environmental challenges in the western PA bioregion. The program, 4:30-6:00 pm in the Special Collections Room, will address methods to restore habitat and reclaim strip-mined soils through renovated plant-soil relationships.

### It's Trash Pick-Up Time Again!

What could be better than being outside in the crisp, cool autumn air, surrounded by beautifully colored trees, on a Friday afternoon, after eating a free lunch? Did we mention the satisfaction involved in picking up trash? We will be cleaning up trash along SRWC's stretch of Adopted Highway for the last time in 2003 on Friday, October 17. If you would like to help out, please meet us at noon at the "Park-n-Ride" along route 422 near the I-79 interchange. We will be beautifying the area for a couple of hours between mile markers 100 and 101. If you have any questions, please call **Cliff Denholm** at 724-776-0161. We could use your help!

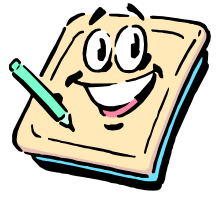
### North Park Picnic

On Monday, September 15, several participants of the **SRWC** went to a picnic at North Park in Pittsburgh, with guest of honor **Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the DEP**. The rain did not stop **SRWC's Margaret Dunn, Cliff Denholm, Tim Danehy, Shaun Busler, Bob Beran, and Dave Jessloski** from having a good time at the picnic luncheon, sponsored by **Western PA Watershed Program**. Secretary McGinty's talk focused on the importance of finding creative, alternative sources of energy, abandoned mine issues, and industrial applications for utilizing abandoned mine drainage. Secretary McGinty then entertained questions and concerns from those in attendance, and a valuable discussion followed. About 60 people came to the event and made good use of the picnic to network and exchange ideas.



# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



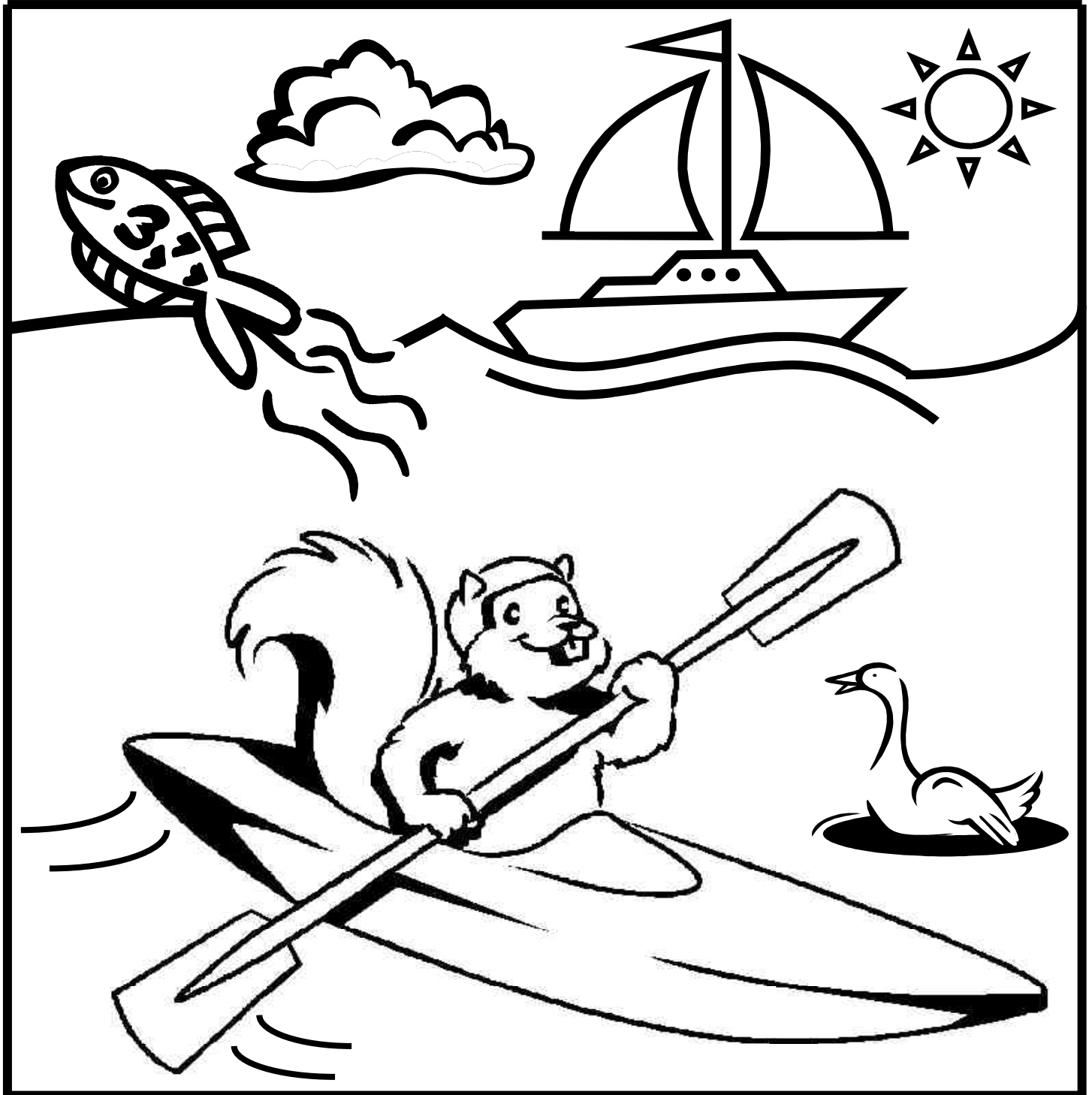
Kids 12 and younger colored THIS picture on the Sept. 17 riverboat cruise in a special coloring contest! Now it is YOUR chance! Color the picture below and mail in this page for a free gift certificate. We will choose the best-colored picture(s) and post them on our web site next month! Good luck! All participants will get a gift certificate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_







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, Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Dominion Peoples, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Bio-Most, 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@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). October Distribution: 1133

## Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

### 2nd Annual Ohio River Watershed Riverboat Cruise

No single individual was responsible for the tremendous success of the Sept. 17 Ohio River Watershed Celebration (see feature article on front page). Rather, it was the collective efforts of many people and organizations all working together towards the common goal of creating a fun networking and learning experience for the more than 425 participants. Each of the Sponsors and Partners listed below contributed something unique to the event, and for that, we thank them. We will be looking for additional Sponsors and Partners for next year's 3rd Annual Ohio River Watershed Cruise; if you are interested, there are many ways to contribute. Please contact Margaret Dunn or Melissa Busler at 724-776-0161 with questions. A very special thank you to the following sponsors and partners who helped with this year's cruise!



**Our Sponsors:** Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program; Gateway Clipper Fleet; Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh; PA Department of Environmental Protection; Quality Aggregates Inc.; Plastie, LLC; Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance; 241 Computer Services; Quality Wetlands Products, LLC; Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC; BioMost, Inc.; Stream Restoration Incorporated; Aquascape Wetland & Environmental Services; Westsylvania Heritage Corporation.

**Our Partners:** Al Houston; Allegheny County Conservation District; Beaver County Conservation District; CDS Associates, Inc.; CEO Club of Pittsburgh; City of Pittsburgh Planning Commission; Continental Communities; Entrepreneurial Network; Jennings Environmental Education Center; Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team; Molly Maiolo; National Audubon Society; National Aviary; Natural Biodiversity Strategy; Nine Mile Run Watershed Association; PA Biodiversity Project; PA Cable Network; PA DEP Central Office; PA DEP Greensburg District Mining Office; PA DEP Knox District Mining Office; PA DEP Southwest Regional Office; PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; PA Department of Transportation; PA Fish and Boat Commission; Penn State University; Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Persephone Project May Flies; Pittsburgh Penguins; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; Pittsburgh Sewer and Water Authority; Pittsburgh Steelers; Pittsburgh Voyager; Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR); Red Fin Blues Restaurant; Rubinoff Corporation; SRWC; Three Rivers 2nd Nature Studio for Creative Inquiry; US Army Corps of Engineers; University of Pittsburgh; VivEventure, LLC; Washington County Conservation District; Washington's Landing Marina; Westsylvania Heritage Corporation; Western PA Conservancy Watershed Office; Western PA Field Institute; Westmoreland County Conservation District; WPTT Garden Party.