

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday November 13 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 10/09/03 Attendance: J. Belgredan, F. Brenner, C. Cooper, T. Danehy, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, S. Smith, W. Taylor

### Coraopolis Memorial Library Exercised Kids' Minds this Summer



(Left) The CML staff and volunteers in their "Get in the Game" t-shirts. Pictured from Left to Right: **Tara Pallas-Sheetz, Florence L. Pallas, Christine Rice, Lois Gould, Marva Duncan.**

(Right) The kids and their parents enjoy a good time, food, and prizes!



The **Coraopolis Memorial Library (CML)** in conjunction with the **Allegheny County Library Association**, and many enthusiastic young kids, encouraged by their parents, participated in the Summer Reading Program for fun and education. The program "kicked off" on June 5, 2003 at the CML with entertainment for the kids, free food, free library cards, stories, fables, and other exciting events. At the end of the summer program, on Saturday, August 9, 2003, the CML held a kind of "Grand Finale" at the Methodist Church adjacent to the CML for those kids who completed the reading program. In spite of the rain, it was a good showing. The kids and their parents got free food and entertainment. The children received prizes for different age groups, including even more educational and reading material to learn from, and even more fun for young and old folks alike!

The **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition** and **Stream Restoration, Inc.** were proud and pleased to join the many donors for this wonderful event by donating over 100 copies of the "ABCs of Our Watershed", a coloring book for kids. This book, created by **Chris Treter** when he was an intern with SRI, highlights the environmental concerns, history, resources and watershed group activities for our streams. Keep up the good work, CML!

### Slippery Rock University Students Go Water Sampling

On September 16, **Slippery Rock University** students **Holly Martinchek** and **Frenando Akash** sampled 12 sites in the Slippery Rock Creek headwaters for water chemistry, algae and invertebrates as part of the ongoing watershed AMD monitoring project supervised by **Dr. Dean DeNicola** and **Dr. Mike Stapleton**. They were assisted by **Tim Gillen** of the **DEP**. This project has collected 8 years of chemical and biological data to assess recovery in the Slippery Rock Watershed resulting from passive treatment for AMD. It is great to see students involved in water sampling and analysis, and noticeable **watershed improvement has been observed during the last 8 years!**

### SRWC's Soil Scientist Speaks at Slippery Rock University



Dr. Valentine Kefeli, center, presents a copy of his book to Library Director Phil Tramdack (second from right). Also pictured are Margaret Dunn of the SRWC and co-authors Dr. Maria Kalevitch and Dr. Bruno Borsari.

A standing-room-only crowd was on hand Thursday, October 16 for the "Land Stewardship and Management Through a Renovated Approach in Plant-Soil Studies" program. Held in the Special Collections Room on the campus of Slippery Rock University, the three authors of the new book [Natural Growth Inhibitors and Phytohormones in Plants and Environment](#) shared their insight and expertise in an interesting presentation and discussion of environmental challenges in the area. **Dr. Valentine Kefeli** of the **SRWC** and **BioMost, Inc.**, **Dr. Bruno Borsari** of **Slippery Rock University**, and **Dr. Maria Kalevitch** of **Robert Morris University** spoke on many topics, including methods to restore habitat and reclaim strip-mined soils using renovated plant-soil relationships. The program, sponsored by **Dr. Jane Fulton**, Dean of the College of Health, Environment, and Science, was enjoyed by all who attended! A special thank you to Dr. Fulton and to **Phil Tramdack**, Library Director and event host!

P  
H  
O  
T  
O  
O  
F  
T  
H  
E  
M  
O  
N  
T  
H



P  
H  
O  
T  
O  
O  
F  
T  
H  
E  
M  
O  
N  
T  
H

Our photo of the month for November comes from Kayla, one of our young readers! Thank you very much, Kayla, for sending us this beautiful horse drawing! We love to receive pictures in the mail from kids who read The Catalyst and enjoy doing The Kids Catalyst activity page, like 8-year old Kayla!

Attention all Kids Catalyst participants! If you would like to see one of your own original works of art appear in our newsletter, please mail them in to us! How about creating a picture with a fall theme?

### George Junior Youth Help Plant North Liberty Wetland

About ten youth from **George Junior Republic** and their two chaperones joined **Shaun Busler** and **Cliff Denholm** of the **SRWC** and **Dr. Fred Brenner** from **Grove City College** to plant 3000 wetland plants on a chilly morning on Saturday, October 18. The North Liberty site, located about 4 miles from the Outlet Malls of Grove City, was mined extensively in the 1940s. It was reclaimed with a public-private partnership effort in 2001. As part of the Erosion and Sedimentation control plan, two ponds were built to prevent sediment from entering Wolf Creek. A portion of each of these ponds was converted into wetlands, and the work done on the 18th was the final step of this process. Working quickly to escape the frigid water conditions and cold air temperature, the volunteers efficiently planted 5 different species, battling the hard clay in many locations. The 3000 plants from Kester's Nurseries had been transplanted in a mere couple of hours! Thank you, volunteers! On an interesting note, Shaun noticed some uncommon aquatic insects at the site: water scorpions and giant water bugs, both of which can inflict painful bites if carelessly handled!

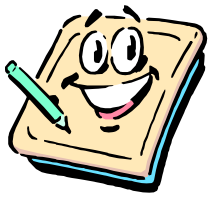


### SRWC Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up



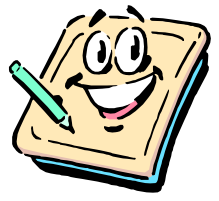
Friday, October 17 was the final Adopt-a-Highway clean-up for the **SRWC** this year. **Margaret Dunn**, **Cliff Denholm**, **Charles Cooper**, and **Shaun Busler** picked up trash along I-79 between mile markers 100 and 101. They were encouraged by the short amount of time it took to get the job done. There was a noticeable decrease in the quantity of litter for this outing compared to how much there was during their first trips to the site when they started this program last year! The Adopt-a-Highway program is making a difference! The SRWC will again have 4 trash pick-up days in 2004; if you would like to be a part of this worthwhile cause, please contact Cliff or Shaun at 724-776-0161.





# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Word Seek and Find

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

WORD BANK				
WETLAND	INSECTS	WATERSHED	LIBRARY	CREEK
FUN	PLANTS	PONDS	HABITAT	SOIL

M	A	W	T	P	L	A	F	P	L	B	M	E	T	Y	P	O	D	S	X
V	X	O	R	H	N	E	C	D	I	O	N	A	C	S	L	I	P	V	C
A	C	S	L	O	T	D	V	U	C	R	L	I	O	S	W	S	K	E	R
G	N	A	U	Q	Z	B	Q	I	N	D	I	D	T	E	N	T	M	O	L
I	W	J	P	K	O	C	H	N	O	W	B	A	R	H	S	P	M	I	A
U	S	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	F	E	R	S	K	Y	O	C	B	J	P
A	R	T	E	C	N	A	O	E	U	S	A	L	R	E	E	A	N	S	T
C	S	I	H	R	I	S	E	T	D	K	R	C	F	U	O	I	M	R	C
I	M	B	C	T	S	A	N	L	O	V	Y	E	G	R	J	O	W	C	A
F	U	N	U	N	A	O	I	P	L	O	C	D	M	I	A	E	O	R	Q
W	F	K	F	V	Q	T	J	G	Z	E	N	X	C	N	R	E	E	T	L
S	P	L	O	K	I	V	C	D	E	N	P	M	P	L	E	W	V	B	T
N	M	I	U	C	Y	T	N	S	C	E	A	L	M	B	Z	P	X	C	H
Y	I	R	S	C	H	A	T	R	E	W	Q	M	A	P	L	O	I	K	W
K	N	O	V	U	L	C	X	Z	A	S	D	F	G	N	J	N	O	E	A
E	T	E	W	T	Y	H	J	K	M	D	N	B	V	I	T	D	E	L	E
B	N	M	E	P	L	I	T	R	S	X	E	C	M	T	W	S	T	O	E
D	G	W	K	L	P	U	N	P	L	A	N	H	O	N	D	C	M	B	S
F	P	L	O	K	N	H	V	F	G	Y	R	S	S	C	B	J	U	K	O
H	P	E	A	C	E	T	U	B	T	M	I	N	U	R	B	P	L	A	L
P	O	M	N	C	Z	K	Y	U	A	Q	T	S	D	A	E	N	D	S	I
E	X	C	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	E	L	L	E	N	W	T	E	N	S
I	N	S	U	R	C	E	R	A	Y	E	A	H	T	O	G	E	A	O	A
L	O	Y	A	T	P	R	P	M	N	C	R	E	Z	W	E	X	T	W	T
P	L	A	W	T	H	C	E	V	Z	M	U	P	O	N	E	S	A	D	S

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_



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

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 434  
CRANBERRY, PA

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). Nov. distribution: 1136 copies

## Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

### Montour Run Watershed Association

This month we would like to recognize the accomplishments of the **Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA)**. The stated purpose of this organization is the protection, remediation, and long-term stewardship of the Montour Run Watershed, including land, water, and biological resources. MRWA officially began in 2000, and works to accomplish its goals through formal and informal partnerships with citizens' groups, businesses, local government agencies, elected officials, and the general public.

Their efforts were recently highlighted on TV during the **Channel 11 WPXI** news and in the newspaper! The October 19 edition of the **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review** featured an article about MRWA's proposed stream clean-up plan. The plan suggests several treatment systems be built to treat water negatively impacted by abandoned mine drainage. **BioMost, Inc.** partnered with MRWA to create passive treatment designs and site rankings for 13 impacted locations in the watershed. MRWA received a state grant to help pay for the construction of a treatment facility, and hopes to obtain future federal funding to cover the expenses involved in building and maintaining treatment systems at Boggs Road and Clinton Road, located in Findlay Township. These 2 sites have been deemed "high priority".

The 37-square-mile watershed encompasses portions of Coraopolis, Findlay, Moon, North Fayette, and Robinson. Many locations in these areas have become devoid of aquatic life due to drainage from abandoned mines. One of MRWA's principal goals is to improve the condition of the watershed to support trout and other game fish. This goal was partially met with the **PA Fish & Boat Commission's** stocking of a 2.3 mile section of Montour Run extending from the SR 3077 bridge (Beaver Grade Road) downstream to the SR 3074 bridge (Hassam Road) with brown and rainbow trout for the 2003 season.

Many groups are partnering with MRWA to clean up the mine drainage problem, characterized by erosion and metal compounds which harm the fish and other aquatic life. Some of the partners working with MRWA to achieve a trout fishery are: **The PA DEP Greensburg District Mining Office, Imperial Land Corporation, landowners William and Mary Kropf, Aquascape, BioMost, Inc., Quality Aggregates, Inc., Stream Restoration Inc., US Office of Surface Mining, McClymonds Supply & Transit Co., Inc., G and C Coal Analysis Lab, Inc., Allegheny County Conservation District, State Senator Jack Wagner, State Senator John Pippy, Wildlife Habitat Council, WPCAMR, and Findlay Township Board of Supervisors.**

MRWA meetings are typically held at 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the conference room at the Robinson Township Municipal Building. For more information or to volunteer to help with a project, email MRWA president **Stan Sattinger** at [mrwa@trfn.clpgh.org](mailto:mrwa@trfn.clpgh.org). The official MRWA web site is located at [www.trfn.clpgh.org/mrwa](http://www.trfn.clpgh.org/mrwa).