

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday February 12 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 1/8/04 Meeting Attendance: J. Belgraden, S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, S. Smith, W. Taylor

Jennings Community Programs



Eric Best, Jennings Environmental Education Specialist, introduces a program to the public.

Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC) is proud to offer several fun, interesting community programs for Winter and Spring of 2004. "Outstanding Geologic Features of PA" will be held at Jennings on Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 pm. Dr. Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Professor of Geology at Slippery Rock University, will be exploring the unique geologic features of our state. Learn how each layer of rock reads like the pages of a novel, with geology having shaped our land and our lives. Discover more about how geology played a major role in the battle of Gettysburg, and determines what crops we grow and which ways our rivers flow.

"George Washington in Western PA: History In Our Backyard" takes place Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 pm. Join Dr. David Dixon, Professor of History at SRU, as he traces George Washington's life from his journey up the Venango Trail 250 years ago (passing by Jennings on what are now Routes 8 and 528) to his battles in the French and Indian War and beyond. Cheating death on more than one occasion, he narrowly escaped being shot by an Indian near present-day Butler, and almost drowned in the icy waters of the Allegheny River during a crossing. Not many people realize how important Western PA was in shaping Washington's character as well as forging his identity as America's foremost military and civil leader. Come learn more about the interesting life and adventures of the man revered as "the father of his country."

These and other programs offered at Jennings throughout the year are free to the public. No registration is necessary for these two programs; for more information, contact Jennings staff at 724-794-6011. If you've never been to Jennings for one of their fun, educational programs, this winter is a great time to participate! Come visit Jennings on Prospect Road in Slippery Rock—the trip will be well worth your while!



Mary Jo Shreffler, Jennings Environmental Education Specialist, leads a bird watching tour.

Register for the SRWC Symposium—On-Line!!!

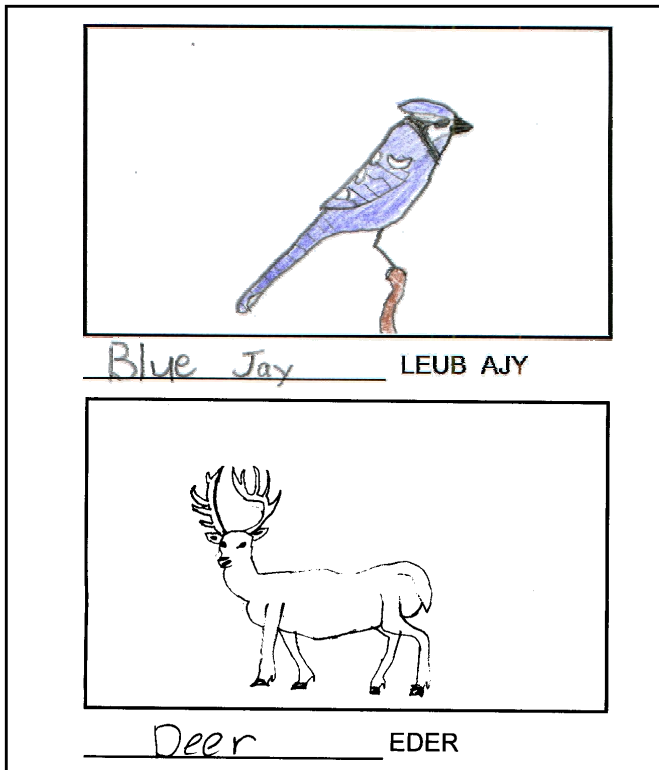
This year's Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition's Annual Symposium is being held in conjunction with ASMR. If you are involved in a watershed group, you should take advantage of these events! The American Society of Mining and Reclamation is holding its 21st Annual Meeting in Morgantown, WV. This valuable conference is to take place April 18-22, 2004, so mark your calendar! Many passive treatment experts are expected to attend! Come and learn from the best! Displays from watershed groups are welcome!

A pre-conference, two-day fieldtrip will be held in conjunction with the annual **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium** on April 16 and 17. Participants will tour the **Jennings Environmental Education Center's** nationally-recognized treatment systems and several passive treatment complexes in the Slippery Rock Creek headwaters on April 16. On April 17, participants will tour the over 20-component passive complex at **Ohiopyle State Park**.

For those attending the **ASMR** conference, a fee of \$175 will include round-trip busing from Morgantown, WV, lodging, and meals. Registration is through ASMR. Contact Jeff Skousen at (304) 293-6256 for more information.

The **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium** is free of charge and includes two outdoor fieldtrips, indoor activities, and speakers, all relevant to passive treatment. The trips will include a tour of the Jennings system and selected systems in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek (transportation provided). Register for the SRWC Symposium by visiting the web site www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp and fill out the simple, easy-to-follow registration, or call Cliff Denholm at 724-776-0161. The deadline for registration is April 1 (no joke). We hope to see you there!

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We received some of the nicest artwork ever by Kids Catalyst participants!!! Check out Nathaniel Martin's drawing of a blue jay and Chris Ehrler's deer, February's Photo of the Month! Thank you both for sharing your talent with us! Good job!

The Kids Catalyst page will return in March, so kids, be on the lookout for more fun activities relating to the Slippery Rock Watershed!!!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Investigating Maintenance, Performance, And Continuous Treatment (IMPACT)

In the Summer of 1998, a passive treatment system consisting of an anoxic collection system, a 900-ton anoxic limestone drain, a settling pond, and two constructed aerobic wetlands was constructed to treat a 35 gallon per minute, net acidic abandoned mine discharge identified as **SR101A**. The discharge emanated from the abandoned Mizner Mine, a drift mine on the Brookville Seam, which operated from 1895 to 1903. The site is located in PA Gamelands No. 95 near Higgins Corner, Washington Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania.

For the last 5+ years this full-scale passive treatment system has been neutralizing the acidic water that issues from the abandoned deep mine. In fact, this system neutralizes about **9 tons of acidity each and every year**. In addition, the system is preventing over **4 tons of iron** every year from entering Slippery Rock Creek. That is about **50 tons of acidity and 20 tons of iron to date!!!** This passive treatment system has required no maintenance to date.

Representative Water Quality

Point	pH (s.u.)	Acidity (mg/l)	Alkalinity (mg/l)	Iron (mg/l)	Manganese (mg/l)	Aluminum (mg/l)
Raw	5.0	25	155	79	3	<1
Treated	6.6	73	-51	10	2	<1

Total metals concentrations

Before Construction



After Construction



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Request for Proposal

Investigating Watershed Issues:
Supporting Student Research Through Public/Private Partnerships

Students from local higher education institutions are invited to submit proposals for presentations that highlight their research projects related to (a) water and soil science, (b) ecosystem recovery and (c) environmental education on local issues.

Accepted proposals will be presented on Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA during an evening symposium. Presenters will be afforded 15 minutes to highlight their work, with audio-visuals, to a group of college students and professionals interested in watershed issues and acid mine drainage remediation.

DEADLINE: postmark March 5, 2004

Complete the following for each presenter and submit to:

Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
c/o Jennings Environmental Education Center
2951 Prospect Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

OR

Email- wilbutaylo@state.pa.us

For more information, contact: Will Taylor, phone: 724-794-6011; email: wilbutaylo@state.pa.us
Students will be notified of proposal acceptance.

Include the Following Information for Each Presenter

Name: _____

Higher Education Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name, department, and contact information of professor with whom you are working on this project:

Your presentation topic relates to: (circle the topic which applies)

Water Research Soil Science Ecosystem Recovery
Environmental Education Other (specify) _____

On a separate sheet (include your name), please provide the following:

- 1) Abstract: Attach a presentation description of about 200-300 words
- 2) Briefly, tell us why you feel that presenting at the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Evening Symposium would be beneficial to both you and your audience.

Due Date for Submission March 5, 2004

See back page of this issue of The Catalyst for additional information



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., 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@streamrestorationinc.org, www.srwc.org. Feb. Distribution: 1192 copies

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Investigating Watershed Issues: Supporting Student Research Through Public/Private Partnerships



Wednesday, April 14th 2004
 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Slippery Rock University

Join the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, professionals in fields of mine reclamation and ecosystem recovery, educators and watershed organizations for an evening showcasing student research at Slippery Rock University.

Students from local colleges and universities are invited to present their research, projects and discoveries relating to water quality, biology, environmental education, soil science and ecosystem recovery to professors, organizations, professionals and their peers. This exciting opportunity will provide valuable experience and encourage the networking of students and professionals.

For more information call 724-794-6011 or e-mail wilbutaylo@state.pa.us

Event Schedule Wednesday April 14th

- 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Networking**
 \$ For networking of student presenters, sponsoring professors and professionals.
- 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Student Symposium**
 \$ Student presenters will give 15-minute audiovisual presentations on research they have been or are conducting.
 \$ Remarks from former student presenter now working in the field of ecosystem restoration.
 \$ Insight from business owner in the field of reclamation and restoration.

The SRWC is accepting proposals from students interested in presenting. To apply, complete a request for proposal, found in this issue of *The Catalyst*, also available by contacting the SRWC at 724-794-6011