

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday March 11 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 2/12/04 Meeting Attendance: J. Belgreden, F. Brenner, S. Busler, C. Cooper, T. Danehy, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, S. Smith, W. Taylor

2003 Year in Review!! A Year of Amazing Opportunities!!

Education/Outreach Activities

- \$ Treatment System tour given to Dominion Foundation Representatives - 2/11
- \$ Grove City Rotary Club - 2/13
- \$ PA Environmental Professionals Wetlands Workshop in Pittsburgh - 3/12
- \$ Univ. of Pittsburgh Graduate Class - 3/18 & 11/13
- \$ PA Environmental Council & Engineers Society of W. PA Environmental Partners Breakfast - 3/19
- \$ City Farmers Club of Pittsburgh - 3/26
- \$ Watershed Education Student Summit - 4/8
- \$ Creek Connections Student Research Symposium at Camp Kon-O-Kwee - 4/9
- \$ 8th Annual SRWC Symposium - 4/10 to 4/11
- \$ SRWC Community Day - 4/13
- \$ Jennings Spring into Action - 4/26
- \$ Evans City Earth Day Celebration - 5/3
- \$ Watershed Academy for Local Government at McKeever Environmental Ed. Center - 5/6 to 5/7
- \$ Stakeholder Meeting with Sec. of DCNR, Michael DiBeradinis - 5/13
- \$ 2nd Edition of Accepting the Challenge available thanks to Butler County Mini-Grant! - 6/2003
- \$ Meet the Secretary Picnic at North Park, Allegheny County - 9/15
- \$ Lawrence County Watershed Partnership - 9/17
- \$ 2nd Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration Riverboat Cruise - 9/17
- \$ "Land Stewardship & Management through a Renovated Approach In Plant-Soil Studies" Lecture by Valentine Kefeli and Bruno Borsari - 10/16
- \$ Non-point Liaison Workgroup - 10/23
- \$ DEP Secretary's Watershed Summit - 11/3
- \$ "Adopt a Highway"

Recognition

- \$ Dominion's 2nd Annual Community Impact Award - 3/12
- \$ Margaret Dunn receives Honorable Mention at the 8th Annual Carnegie Science Center Awards for Excellence - 4/30

Restoration Projects

- \$ Erico Bridge - Largest Known Anoxic Limestone Drain in Pennsylvania
- \$ North Liberty Wetland Planting with George Junior Republic Youth - 10/18

Conferences

- \$ PA Association of Environmental Professionals Conference in Coraopolis, PA - 1/9
- \$ PA Volunteer Monitoring Conference in State College, PA - 2/21 to 2/22
- \$ Society of Mining Engineers Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, OH - 2/24 to 2/26
- \$ 56th Annual PA Recreation & Parks Society Annual Conference in State College, PA - 3/2 to 3/5
- \$ Interstate Mining Compact Commission Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA - 4/1
- \$ PA Academy of Science in Grantville, PA - 4/4 to 4/6
- \$ West Virginia Surface Mine Taskforce Symposium in Morgantown, WV - 4/15 to 4/16
- \$ 5th Annual PA Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Mayfield, PA - 5/15 to 5/17
- \$ Joint Conference of Billings Land Reclamation Symposium & American Society of Mining and Reclamation in Billings, MT - 6/2 to 6/6
- \$ 2003 PA GIS Conference in Harrisburg - 6/24 to 6/25
- \$ World Water & Environmental Resources Congress in Philadelphia, PA - 6/23 to 6/26
- \$ US Army Corps of Engineers AML Workshop 4 - 7/29 to 7/30
- \$ "Thinking Ahead" Workshop at Schenley Park - 8/26
- \$ 4th Annual W. PA GIS Conference at California Univ. at Southpointe - 9/5
- \$ 4th Annual PA Watershed Conference in Grantville, PA - 10/3 to 10/4



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A group of well-bundled young volunteers pose for a picture standing with a pile of brush collected at the Jennings Environmental Education Center's annual Prairie Improvement Day. Thanks to the help of these youngsters and other volunteers, much woody growth was cleared from this unique ecosystem.

Don't Forget About ASMR & the SRWC Symposium!!

If you haven't done so already, it isn't too late to mark your calendars for The American Society of Mining and Reclamation's 21st Annual Meeting and the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium! These two conferences will be held back-to-back, with the SRWC's fieldtrip taking place April 16, followed by ASMR's field trip to Ohio State Park on April 17 and meeting April 18-22. The SRWC's Symposium will include trips to several innovative passive treatment systems in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek near Boyers, PA. This symposium, free of charge, will also include indoor activities and speakers relative to passive treatment. The ASMR meeting is to be held in Morgantown, WV; a fee of \$175 for this field trip includes round-trip busing from Morgantown to Jennings and Ohio State, lodging, and meals.

To register for ASMR, contact Jeff Skousen at (304) 293-6256 for additional information. Registration for the SRWC Symposium is online at www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp; or, call Cliff Denholm at (724) 776-0161. Don't miss the unique opportunity to participate in TWO informative, exciting conferences! Many passive treatment experts are expected to attend—come and learn from the best! Anyone involved in a watershed group is welcome to bring a display. We hope to see you there to share passive treatment experiences and build partnerships for the future health of our watersheds!

Oops!

We goofed! Please note this correction for the February issue of The Catalyst. There was an error in the "Where Are They Now" feature; the representative water quality data for the passive treatment system in PA Gamelands No. 95, system SR101A, should be as follows. The data for acidity and alkalinity had been reversed.

Representative Water Quality

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

Total metals concentrations



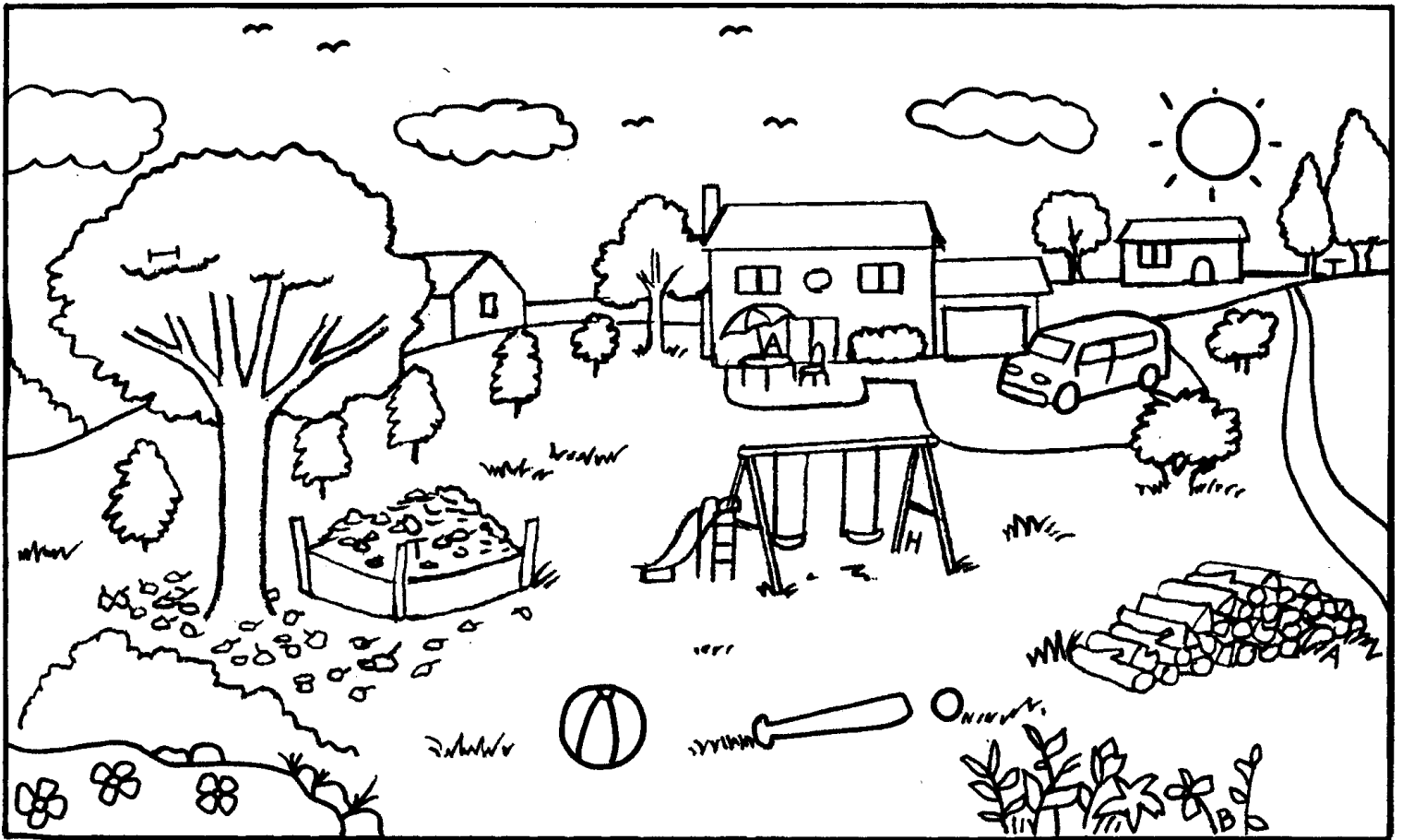
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



HABITAT

What is a habitat? A habitat is the place where an animal lives and gets what it needs for survival. A habitat provides things like shelter and food. Habitats can be very big, like the ocean, or very small, like a rotting log. Did you know your own backyard makes an excellent habitat for many creatures? In the backyard pictured below, there could be a snake in the compost pile, a turtle under the wood pile, birds and squirrels in the trees, insects in the grass, moles and chipmunks underground... Also hiding in our picture are 7 letters used to spell the word H-A-B-I-T-A-T. Circle each letter, color the picture, and mail your paper in to us for 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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ORGANIZATION
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Jennings Prairie Improvement Day

Jennings Environmental Education Center once again hosted its annual “Prairie Improvement Day” on January 24, 2004. Home to the endangered Massasauga rattlesnake and rare Blazing star plant, the Jennings prairie is a hidden gem nestled among the trees of western Pennsylvania. Over sixty members of the community volunteered an entire morning, braving the bitter cold mid-winter temperatures, in order to clear woody growth from the unique prairie landscape.



Although a variety of management techniques are used to preserve the prairie, clipping and removing the small saplings is best accomplished during winter when the soil is frozen and the vegetation reduced. Such an undertaking can only be completed with the help of a large group of dedicated volunteers. The amount of work performed in such difficult conditions was truly amazing and will play a key role in maintaining the ecological and aesthetic integrity of the prairie.

In exchange for their efforts, all participants were treated to a wonderful lunch beside a warm, crackling fire in the Jennings classroom. Items on the menu, which were donated by local restaurants, staff members and volunteers, included eighteen varieties of soup, bread, crackers, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and soft drinks. Volunteers were also given a beautiful, commemorative soup mug to take with them as an additional “thank you” from the Jennings staff.



For the first time in the history of the event, Jennings partnered with “Take Pride in America,” a national organization that aims to seek and recognize volunteers who work to improve our national parks, forests, grasslands and wildlife refuges, public lands, cultural and historic sites, playgrounds and other recreation areas. Take Pride was started by the U.S. Department of the Interior and represents an excellent opportunity for citizens and communities to demonstrate local pride, initiative, and stewardship. Jennings is proud to have partnered with Take Pride and we look forward to many more years of cooperative service.