

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Due to the symposium there will be no meeting this month. We hope to see you at the symposium! 3/11/04 Meeting Attendance: S. Busler, C. Cooper, T. Danehy, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor

9TH ANNUAL SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION SYMPOSIUM

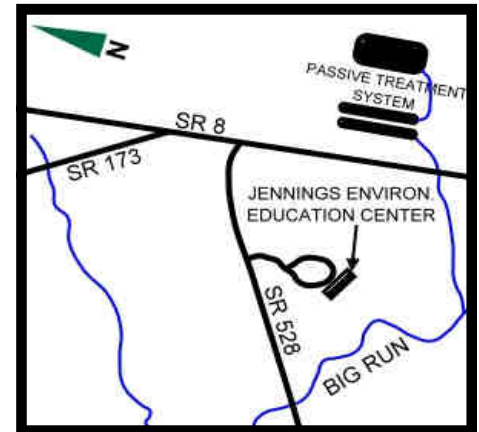
The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition will hold the 9th Annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium on April 14 and 16. This year, the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is proud to be able to offer their annual symposium as a pre-conference field trip for participants attending the American Society of Mining and Reclamation Meeting. All Symposium events are free of charge, open to the public and can be attended individually. Registration is appreciated for those events scheduled for April 16, and can be made online at www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp/. Lunch will be provided on Friday, April 16.

Wednesday April 14th from 6 pm to 9 pm **College Night at Slippery Rock University**

This evening program, "Investigating Watershed Issues: Supporting Student Research Through Public/Private Partnerships," will showcase projects of local college and university students in the fields of soil science, water quality and ecosystem recovery. Participants can support these dedicated and hardworking students by attending their presentations in the Bailey Library on the Slippery Rock University campus. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Friday April 16th from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm **The 9th Annual SRWC Symposium at Jennings Environmental Ed. Center**

Among a gathering of professionals, agencies, academia and community members on Friday, April 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, participants will discover "who's who" in the science of abandoned mine drainage, as well as what is in store for the future of passive treatment. Field trip participants will visit the Jennings Research and Demonstration Site and various reclamation projects within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed including the new Erico Bridge Passive Treatment Complex with an 8,300-ton Anoxic Limestone Drain and 9,000-ton Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed, wetlands, and other components. This is a unique opportunity for Pennsylvania watershed organizations, agencies and citizens to meet national and international scientists and professionals in the fields of land and water reclamation.



ASMR Annual Meeting

Saturday April 17

A special fieldtrip to Ohio State Park highlights today's activities. A 20-component passive treatment complex will be toured with hosts Margaret Dunn and Timothy Danehy of the SRWC.

Sunday April 18— Thursday April 22

A National meeting is held annually where information, research, and ideas are exchanged between academic professionals, those who are implementing reclamation activities in the field, students, and all other interested persons. Each year the location is rotated within eastern and western North America to provide opportunities for its members and guests to become familiar with diverse reclamation challenges and accomplishments. This year, the 21st National Meeting is being held in Morgantown, WV in conjunction with the 25th West Virginia Surface Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium.

For more information or to register, contact Stream Restoration Incorporated at (724) 776-0161 or sri@streamrestorationinc.org. For more information about the American Society of Mining and Reclamation Meeting, visit www.wvu.edu/~agexten/landrec/2004TFS/PreProgram.pdf.

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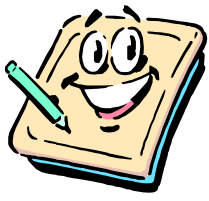
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A future “Tim the Toolman Taylor”? These scouts were working on Wood Duck boxes to be placed at Erico Bridge (see article below)

Helpful Cub Scouts Volunteer at Erico Bridge

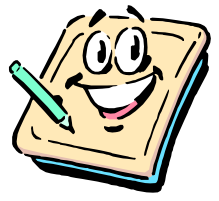
An early morning snowfall did not deter the Bear Cubs and Webelos of the Grove City Cub Scout Pack from trekking to the Erico Bridge passive treatment system on Saturday, March 13th. The trek had actually begun late last year, when the scouts built the site’s nesting boxes from materials donated by the employees of Beran Environmental, Inc. The visit began in typical young boy fashion – with the 14 scouts throwing limestone rocks into the settling pond. The adults soon put an end to that version of the fun and the learning began. Bob Beran, President of Beran Environmental, Inc., gave a basic introduction to the problem of AMD (Abandoned Mine Drainage) and the solution of passive treatment systems. The Wood Duck boxes were then unloaded and the final construction completed – mounting hardware cloth below the entrance/exit to give the ducklings the toe-hold they will need to exit. After this, the scouts distributed the boxes and necessary installation supplies along the berms of the treatment wetlands. It was then a simple matter of driving the poles, mounting the boxes, placing several inches of wood chips in them, and securing the access panel (which allows for human entrance to clean the boxes) from accidental opening by the wood ducks or purposeful opening by predators. Once all six boxes were placed, filled, and locked, Bob showed the scouts the E&S (erosion and sediment) controls in evidence around the treatment system. These included silt fences, grass, and other vegetation (defining “vegetation” as “plants” smoothed a number of wrinkled brows). Bob Beran followed this lesson by one on soils. It consisted of his digging a soil pit and removing a soil profile to show the scouts the different layers (officially termed horizons) and how they differ – color, texture, structure, etc. He also discussed how soils form and how much one can tell about an area through the soils that exist there. The field trip was then over for the scouts and their chaperones ... well, after a snack provided by pack leader John Sestak. The boxes themselves still need one more thing before they can be considered complete – the installation of predator guards, which Bob Beran has scheduled to complete prior to the end of March.





The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Word Seek and Find

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Spring officially arrived on Saturday, March 20. Though it was a cold and snowy day in the Slippery Rock watershed in Western PA, we know sunshine and warmer weather are on their way! Do you know how the first official day of Spring is determined? The *vernal equinox* is the date when spring begins. The vernal equinox is the day in March when day and night are of equal length. The days will grow longer until the summer solstice, the first official day of summer. The other date during the year when day and night are of equal length is the autumnal equinox, a day in September which marks the first day of Fall. Listed in the Word Bank below are ten words which have to do with Spring! See if you can find all of the words, and circle them. Then mail your paper in to us for a free gift certificate! Good luck!

WORD BANK				
APRIL	MAY	SPRING	RAIN	ROBINS
EASTER	SUNSHINE	FLOWERS	GREEN	GARDEN

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

Age _____

Name _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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Annual “Get-Together” and Assessment Meeting

The Get-Together is tentatively scheduled May 13 at a location to be determined in Boyers, PA. Bring the whole family for free food, door prizes, and PINATAS!!

This year, staff from Beran Environmental, Inc. will be giving a summary of the work that has been completed on the Slippery Rock Watershed Assessment. The presentation will include preliminary information on the year-long water quality monitoring program, GIS data layers that are being developed for the assessment, and the results of the fisheries survey that was conducted last summer. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

More information next month!

Jennings Spring Into Action April 24th!

Celebrate Earth Week by pitching in at the park. The Jennings staff is looking for interested groups and individuals willing to spend a spring day helping with park improvement projects on our annual Spring Into Action day. Attending this event will be a wonderful way to give something back to the community. As a special thank-you, lunch will be provided and each participant will receive a tee-shirt commemorating the event. The popular raffle will also be held, giving participants the opportunity to win great environmental prizes. Participants must be age 12 or older and must register for the program by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 no later than April 16.