

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** The Get-Together will be held on May 13 at the Boyers Sportsmen Club from 6 PM to 8 PM. April meeting was cancelled due to Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition's Annual Symposium at Jennings Environmental Education Center.

### 9th Annual SRWC Symposium an International Flare!

On Friday, April 16 approximately 50 folks took part in our 9th (Can you believe that its been almost a decade since we started?!) annual Symposium at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Visitors came from as far away as **Korea, Brazil, and Venezuela!!!** As usual, **Janice Belgraden** did a wonderful job moderating this event!!



**Wendy Beeching** and **Jerry Macurak** started off the Symposium with a presentation on the oil and gas well plugging project being conducted in the headwaters area of South Branch Slippery Rock Creek. **Shaun Busler** gave a brief description and live demonstration of **Datashed**, an online, GIS database, and how it can assist in the Operation and Maintenance of passive treatment systems. **Cliff Denholm** described the interrelationships among JEEC, the SRWC, and ASMR, relating to technology transfer. Cliff stressed how ASMR strives to encourage communication among researchers, private industry, and government agencies.

**Tim Danehy** summarized the environmental improvements being made in the watershed, resulting from the installation of 15 passive treatment systems, which include 14 vertical flow ponds, 7 anoxic limestone drains, 3 horizontal flow limestone beds, and 12 constructed wetlands covering over 10 acres!!! These systems remove >200 tons of iron and 8 tons of aluminum annually!

Symposium participants took a walking tour of the passive treatment systems at **Jennings** after a brief overview of local mining and restoration history. Everyone then traveled to the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek to tour the **Erico Bridge Restoration Area**, which has the largest known ALD in PA, and the **De Sale Restoration Area - Phase III**. The day ended with a delicious buffet dinner at Quaker Steak and Lube in Cranberry Township. (A special thanks to **Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC** and **Quality Aggregates Inc.** for their generosity!!!!)

Symposium attendees journeyed to beautiful **Ohiopyle State Park** on Saturday, April 17 to tour the multi-faceted Harbison Walker passive treatment complex, featuring over 20 components. What an appropriate setting to present **John Dawes, Western PA Watershed Program**, with the **2004 SRWC Appreciation Award!!!** (See back page.)

Thanks **Bruce Golden, Western PA Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation**, for the wonderful photos of the event including the panorama below of a portion of the treatment complex at Ohiopyle State Park!



### SRWC Student Symposium

The Student Symposium, showcasing student research in water quality, biology, ecosystem recovery, and soil science, was held on Wednesday, April 14 at Slippery Rock University. Following a time of networking, students from **Slippery Rock University, Westminster College, and Grove City College** gave 15-minute audiovisual presentations of their research to professors, organizations, professionals, watershed volunteers, and their peers. It was clear to the 36 attendees how crucial partnerships are to the success of any project. Thanks **Slippery Rock University** and **Dr. Valentine Kefeli** and **Dr. Bruno Borsari** for making this possible! A special thanks to **Malcolm Crittenden, PA DEP, Cambria Office** for sharing outstanding outreach efforts by the Wells Creek watershed group.

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SRWC Symposium field tour of Erico Bridge, Venango Twp., Butler Co. What a beautiful day to be in the field!!! But, look at the flow!!! This is the highest flow, est. >1000 gpm, observed from the ALD (8,300 tons limestone).

## ASMR 2004—Wonderful West Virginia!

The American Society of Mining and Reclamation held its 21st Annual Meeting on April 18-22 in Morgantown, WV in conjunction with the 25th Annual West Virginia Surface Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium. Held at a facility overlooking the Monongahela River, the conference gave attendees important opportunities to network and get up-to-date on the latest research and discoveries in the fields of AMD passive treatment, active treatment, revegetation, forestry, remining, overburden, wildlife, hydrology, minesoils, tailings, and watershed restoration. Experts in reclamation shared their knowledge, watershed groups interacted and learned from each other, and all benefited from the dozens of poster presentations and displays available.

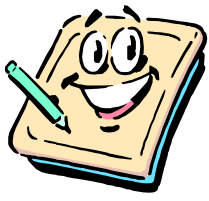
Seven fieldtrips were offered to conference-goers, including trips led by the SRWC to Ohiopyle State Park and to the Jennings Environmental Education Center to join the 9th Annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium. **(See page 1.)**

As part of the conference, Cliff Denholm presented on Operation and Maintenance considerations for the Ohiopyle State Park passive treatment complex. Dr. Fred Brenner, SRWC and Grove City College, with co-authors Shaun Busler, SRI, and Scott Alexander, DEP, gave a presentation on the passive treatment work at Fox Run in Mercer County, PA. Posters and displays from participants in the SRWC included : **Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Stream Restoration Inc., and SRWC.** And, we were even on **television(!!!)** with Margaret Dunn describing the value of partnership efforts and watershed restoration.

Margaret Dunn of the SRWC and Stream Restoration Inc. was sworn in as the new President of ASMR! Congratulations, Margaret!! She replaces Jeff Skousen of West Virginia University, who did a tremendous job in organizing this year's conference.

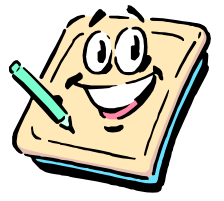
The 2005 Annual Meeting of ASMR will take place June 19-24 at beautiful Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center in Breckenridge, Colorado. We hope you will make plans to "raise reclamation to new heights" by being a part of ASMR 2005! **Because of the presence and interest of watershed groups at the 2004 conference, the ASMR National Executive Committee voted unanimously to offer a \$1000 scholarship to a watershed group in order to send a representative(s) to give a presentation at the 2005 ASMR conference in Breckenridge!!! (Information regarding the application will be provided when available.)**

**Thank you Jeff Skousen, Dick Barnhisel, and all the other organizers for making this such a worthwhile experience "to learn from the best".**



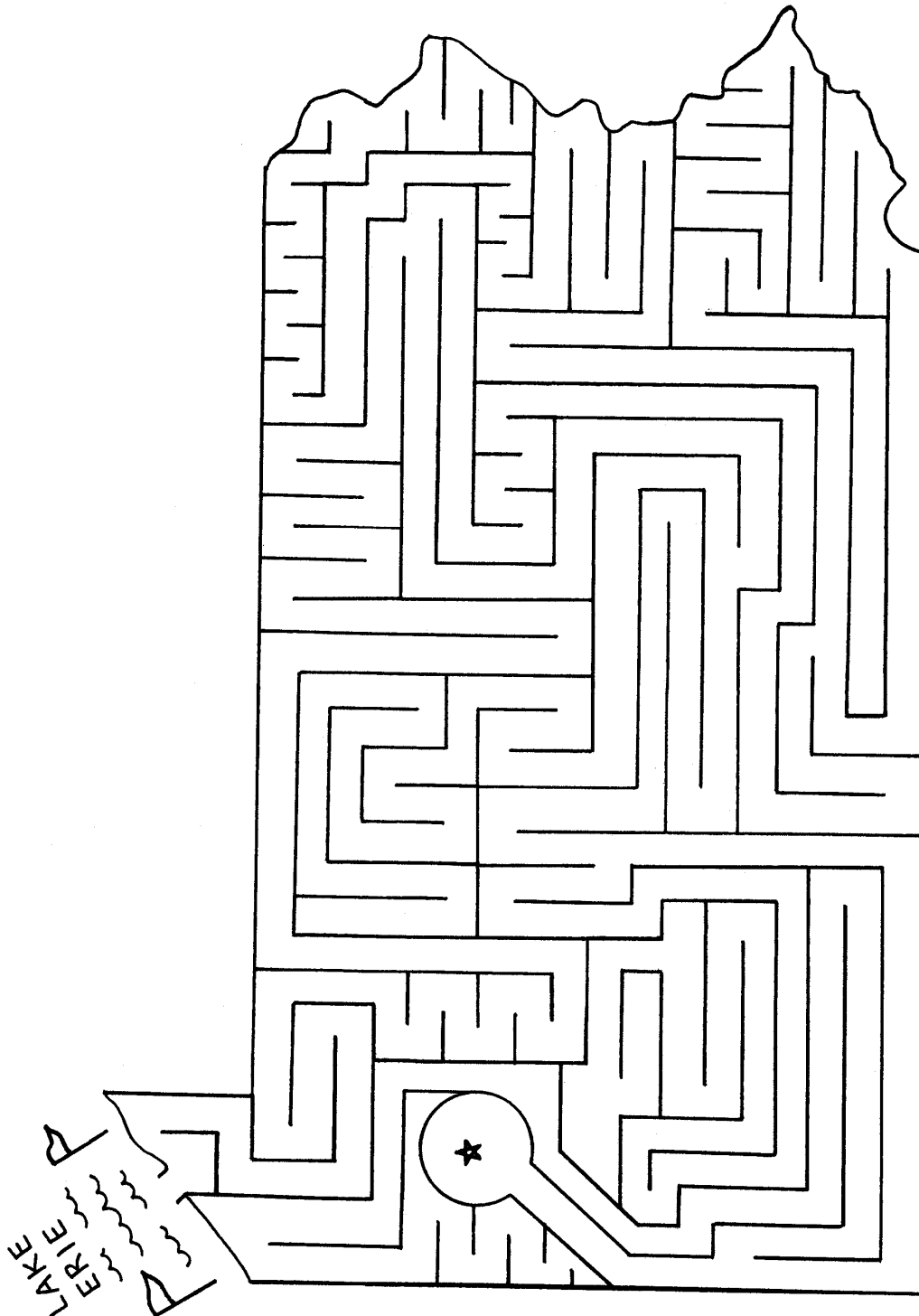
# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



*Marvelous maze madness*

Have you ever wondered where in the world IS the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed? We are located where the star is shown in this drawing of Pennsylvania. In our streams, you are likely to find fish like bluegill, brown trout, rock bass, white sucker, mottled sculpin, blacknose dace, johnny darter, common shiner, bluntnose minnow, and creek chub. In this maze, your job is to find your way across Pennsylvania from the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed to Lake Erie, where fish like the lake trout, brown trout, carp, longnose sucker, walleye, yellow perch, and smallmouth bass are found. After you finish the maze, you can mail your paper to us for a free gift certificate!



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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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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). May Distribution: 1210 copies



## John Dawes, Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program Accepts 2004 SRWC Appreciation Award

The WPWP continues to mean so much to so many!!! Thousands of people have been able to implement efforts that restore and sustain the quality of our water resources through support from this program!!! Thank you!!!

## SRWC Annual Get-Together

We hope you will join us on May 13 for our annual get-together! Anyone is welcome to take part in the fun! The festivities will be from 6PM to 8PM at the Boyers Sportsman Club in Boyers, PA. We'll be enjoying delicious food and deserts, fabulous door prizes, good company, and there will be lots to do for the children (including the always-popular piñata!) We will also have displays about our restoration projects and a presentation updating the status of the watershed assessment - learn something about the water problems and solutions happening in your own backyard! So don't miss out! Bring the whole family for FREE food, door prizes, and much more! For additional information on this event, call Shaun Busler of Stream Restoration Inc. at 724-776-0161.

## SRWC Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

Aaaaah, springtime! The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, the sun is shining... and trash has been piling up along I-79! The SRWC will hold their first trash pick-up day of 2004 on Friday, May 21 beginning at noon. Come help us in our effort to keep the 1-mile stretch of interstate between mile markers 100 and 101 clean and green. Who knows what interesting artifacts of garbage have accumulated during those long winter months? If you'd like to help us take up a collection for Oscar the Grouch, meet us at the unofficial Park-n-Ride at the intersection near I-79 and US-422 (off exit 99). We'll provide gloves, safety vests, bags, and a free lunch! Call Cliff Denholm at 724-776-0161 if you have any questions. We would appreciate your help. Anyone is welcome!