

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday September 9 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 8/12/04 Meeting Attendance: F. Brenner, S. Busler, M. Busler, I. Busler, C. Cooper, T. Danehy, V. Kefeli

Don't Miss the Boat! Sept. 16 is the 3rd Annual Ohio River Celebration!!



Thanks to Laurie Popeck, Washington County Conservation District, for the wonderful photos!



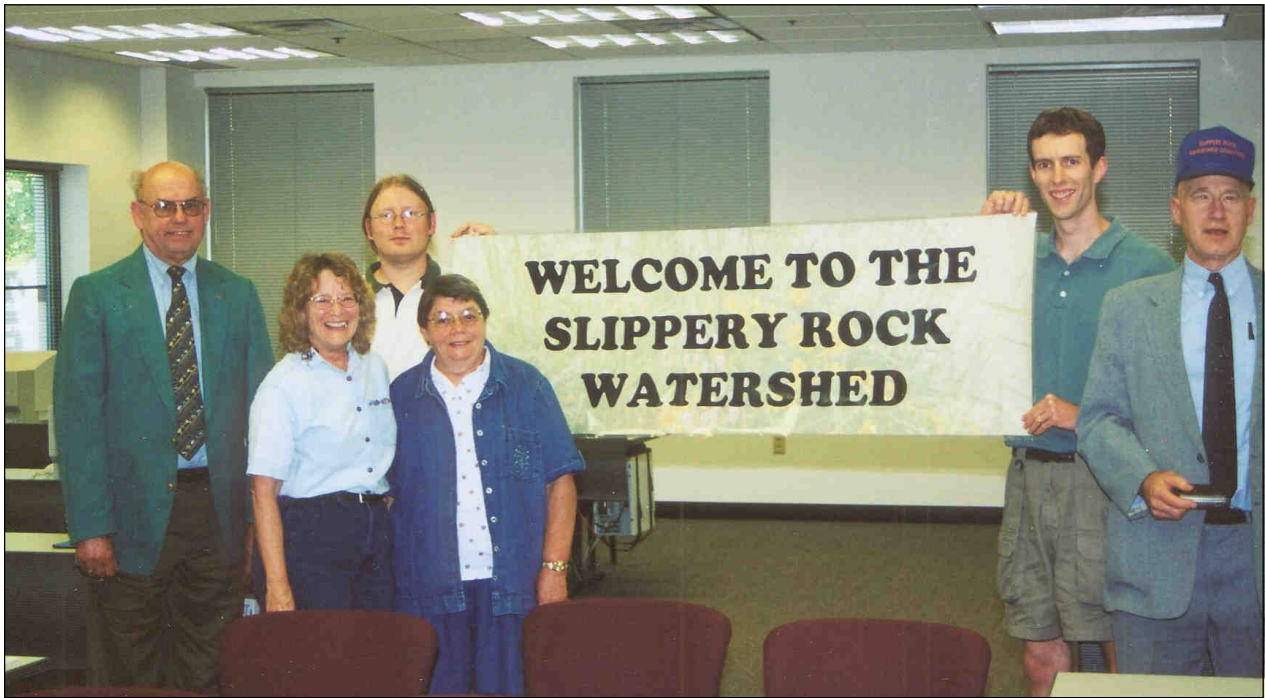
It's almost here! September 16 is right around the corner, and that means it will be time to sail the Ohio River aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet's Majestic for the 3rd Annual Ohio Watershed Celebration! A producer of PBS documentaries will be with us filming portions of the event for his newest project! We have had a tremendous response in registration and are very excited about this cruise. It is not too late to sign up! Please join us, along with watershed groups, professionals, local and state government officials, private business, industry, educators, students, and all those interested in learning more about the Ohio River Watershed. Over 425 folks attended last year's event! We have a lot of great opportunities planned for this year's celebration to make it just as fun and successful: dozens of informative poster displays, interesting speakers, a guided narration of points of interest along the Ohio River, a trip through a lock and dam, the presentation of environmental awards, free snacks, great door prizes, activity books for children, and more! Pre-cruise festivities begin at 11:00 AM at Pittsburgh's Station Square dock area, boarding starts at 12:30 PM, and we will be sailing from 1:00 PM (sharp) until 4:00 PM. Join in the fun as we learn more about river ecology, the workings of a lock and dam, sediment control, the history of Neville Island, water wells, and more!

If your group would like to bring a poster display, limited space is available at no cost on a first-come first-serve basis. For additional information or to register for the cruise, visit www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp or call Margaret Dunn at 724-776-0161 or Maggie Hall at 412-442-4137. We hope to see you there as we celebrate the Ohio River Watershed!! Everyone is welcome!!!

Grove City Professor Wins Distinguished Citizen Award

Dr. Fred Brenner of the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition**, Biology Professor at **Grove City College**, has been awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award by the **French Creek Council of Boy Scouts of America**. This award is presented to individuals who have made major contributions to Mercer County and in their professional careers. A dinner will be held on Tuesday, September 21, at which time the scouts will present Dr. Brenner this award. Dr. Brenner has devoted decades to the conservation, restoration, teaching, studying, and improvement of the watershed, its wetlands, wildlife, and more. If it's in Mercer County, Dr. Brenner is involved in it somehow!!!





Participants from the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition who attended the video conference with Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, for the Take Pride in America Award. Not pictured are Dave Johnson, Jennings Environmental Education Center, and Valentine Kefeli. (Photo by Valentine Kefeli)

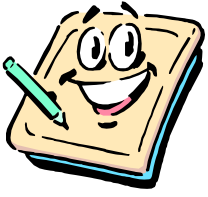
Special thanks to Joe Woods and Maggie Hall, PA DEP, Southwest Regional Office, for the logistical support!!!

“Garden Party” Gal Visits Jennings and Headwaters Area

Who do Pittsburghers turn to with questions on pruning and planting, lawns and landscaping? Who gives out the best tips on perennials and annuals? Birds and bulbs? Trees and shrubs? Why, The Garden Party lady, of course: **Jane Nugent!** Jane hosts a weekly radio program called the “**Garden Party**”, which airs on **WPTT 1360 AM** every Saturday afternoon from 12:30 PM until 2:00 PM. Her program covers a variety of topics, and as part of her quest to become learned in many fields of science and nature, Jane recently toured Jennings Environmental Education Center and the Slippery Rock headwaters area to learn about wetlands and passive treatment systems. With **Bob Beran** of **Beran Environmental Services** and **Margaret Dunn** of **Stream Restoration Incorporated** as her guides, Jane was able to glimpse first-hand the success of passive treatment systems to remediate acid mine drainage and the many interesting benefits of wetlands. On August 16, the trio visited the Jennings Environmental Education Center, Goff Station Restoration Area, De Sale Restoration Area - Phase II.

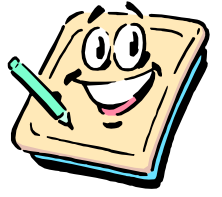
A “Bear-y” Interesting Lecture

Don’t hibernate at home on the evening of Tuesday, September 14! **Dr. Gary Alt**, black bear authority and current head of the **PA Game Commission’s** Deer Management program, will be speaking to students at **Grove City College** at 7 PM in the Sticht Lecture Hall in the New Hall of Arts and Letters. This speaking engagement is open to the public and is sure to be interesting and informative! Dr. Alt will be speaking on the management objectives for the PA Game Commission. He is a freelance nature photographer and lecturer who has experienced encounters with over 3000 bears! He has narrated and hosted an award-winning video documentary and presented more than 1000 lectures on bear, deer, and other wildlife management topics. Dr. Alt has received numerous awards and honors recognizing his professional accomplishments, including the Safari Club International Conservation Award, the highest recognition an individual can receive from SCI for service in the field of wildlife conservation and hunters’ rights.



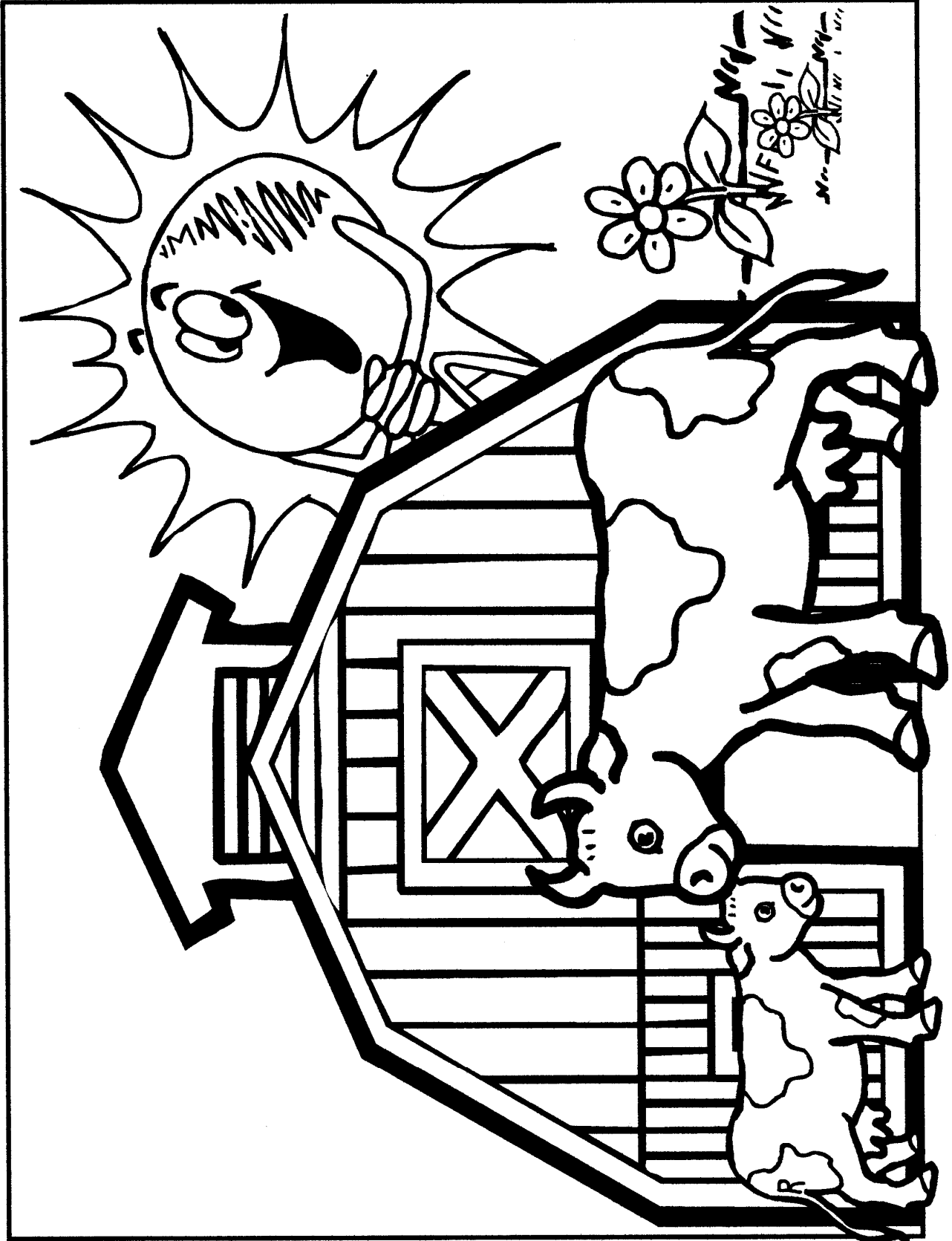
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



FARM FUN: Hidden Picture and Coloring!

Pennsylvania is an important part of the farming system in the United States. There are about 59,000 farms in Pennsylvania, which ranks 18th among all of the states in annual income produced by its farms. Pennsylvania farms are leaders in milk and egg production. Cattle, apples, peaches, houseplants, and cut flowers are also important. And PA ranks first in the production of mushrooms! Color the picture of the farm below and circle the 4 hidden letters that spell the word F-A-R-M. Send your completed picture to us and we'll mail you a free gift certificate!



Name _____ Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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SRWC WINS NATIONAL TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA AWARD!!!

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is honored and excited to have recently been awarded a **2004 National Take Pride in America Award**, in the category of public/private partnerships! **Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton** announced the winners on August 23 via a live videoconference. The Secretary congratulated this year's 18 winners and spoke about the importance of public stewardship. Presented annually, Take Pride in America's national awards recognize outstanding volunteer projects and efforts in a variety of categories. The awards program is open to individuals and public and private groups that have contributed to the protection or enhancement of America's public lands, including public parks, forests, grasslands, reservoirs, wildlife refuges, cultural and historic sites, local playgrounds, and other recreational areas. Winners are selected by a panel of reviewers and will be honored at a September 21 awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The SRWC was nominated for this award by **Dave Johnson** of **Jennings Environmental Education Center**. Thank you, Dave! The SRWC was formed in 1994, when a public-private partnership of agencies, academic institutions, local industries, small businesses, and community members joined together and dedicated themselves to the task of restoring the headwaters of the Slippery Rock Creek. This was done in part by treating abandoned mine drainage. The 15 passive treatment systems of the SRWC handled 750 million gallons of AMD in 2003 alone. Several goals of the SRWC include turning the headwaters into a viable fishery, developing new land reclamation and treatment systems, educating the public on abandoned mine restoration, and validating the benefits of public-private partnerships. More than 63 public and private partners comprise the 500 volunteers who contributed 2,000 hours of time in 2003!!!

Take Pride in America is a national partnership that recruits, supports, and recognizes volunteers who work to improve our public lands. With over 100 Charter Partners, Take Pride involves federal, state, and local governments; conservation, youth, and recreation groups; and top national corporations and organizations. "The cornerstone of Take Pride is the belief that individuals need to be engaged to take responsibility for improving their community environment," said Secretary Norton. "At Interior we call it 'cooperative conservation,' and Take Pride's award-winning volunteers are helping to turn this philosophy into action." Said Take Pride's executive director **Marti Allbright**, "Take Pride in America has grown by leaps and bounds, and I'm delighted at the number of nominations received for this year's awards program. The 2004 winners certainly represent the best of our nation's public stewardship." For more information on Take Pride, visit **www.TakePride.gov**.