

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thurs. Oct. 14 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 9/9/04 Meeting Attendance: S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, W. Taylor**

### **Thanks for a Wonderful 3rd Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!**

Thanks to a tremendous effort and support by sponsors and partners (See back page.) and to an enthusiastic response by participants, the **Third Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration** was both fun and educational!!! Attendance increased by nearly 200 over last year's event, with **610** folks taking part in the festivities on September 16!! Among the crowd were people from about 30(!!!) watershed groups, 30(!!!) other non-profits, 30(!!!) businesses, and 35(!!!) government agencies. And, lets not forget the over 150(!!!) homeschoolers and numerous Jane Nugent fans, who brightened our day!!! (Thanks **Laurie Popeck**, Washington Co. Cons. Dist., for manning registration!!!)

Watershed stewardship was our focus and there wasn't a shortage of activities on this warm, beautiful day!!! Pre-cruise festivities included activities for kids, such as fish printing (Thank you Venture Outdoors!) and a super-size boardgame about water pollution where the kids moved as human game pieces (Thank you **Roy Lenhart**, Audubon Society). Several displays were on the Station Square dock, and Environmental Awards were presented for the first time!! **John Dawes** of the **Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program** was acknowledged as an individual who has help thousands of people to participate in watershed stewardship activities. **Quality Aggregates Inc.**, represented by **Karl Mathias**, was also acknowledged for their partnership in many AMD treatment projects and early and lasting support of all Ohio River Watershed Celebrations; and the Watershed Group award was won by **Wells Creek Watershed Association**, for their long-term restoration efforts with **Thurman Korn** and **Malcolm Crittendon** on hand to accept the award. (Thanks **Tim Brett** for the wonderful photo awards!!!)

Addressing the large crowd before the cruise were several dignitaries, including: **Mike Sherman** and **Scott Roberts**, PA DEP Dep. Secs.; **Barrie Gibbs**, PlasTie.; **Stephanie Timmemeyer**, WV DEP Sec.; **Eric Carlson**, US EPA; **Denny Tubbs** and **Dr. Douglas Austin**, Exec. Dir. PA Fish & Boat Comm.; **Ken Bowman**, PA DEP Dir. SW Reg.; **Jane Nugent**, WPTT "Garden Party"; and **David Hess**, Holston & Crisci. (Thanks **Tom Grote** for moderating!!!)

Participants sailed aboard **The Majestic**, the largest vessel of the **Gateway Clipper** fleet, on a fun and informative 3-hour cruise of the Ohio River below The Point in Pittsburgh. **Dave Plank** and **Maggie Hall** of the **PA DEP** provided a guided, original, narration for the first half of the trip. They provided the crowd with interesting facts and history of many points of interest and landmarks along the banks of the Ohio River, as well as water quality information. Students enjoyed activity books created by **Melissa Busler**, Stream Restoration Inc., full of fun and educational games and puzzles about the Ohio River Watershed, wildlife, environment, and Pittsburgh. **Liz Jones**, Robert Morris Univ., described the new athletic facility on Neville Island and their rowing teams. **Dave Sneeberger**, US Army Corps of Engineers, gave insight as the Majestic navigated through a lock and dam, one of the highlights of the journey! (Thanks **Maggie Hall** for developing the in-depth educational narration and sharing your unique organizational talents and **Mike Gallagher**, Gateway Clipper, who helped us make the event possible!!!)

During the second leg of the trip, four short, informative presentations were given. **Joseph Dinkel**, **Asst. Exec. Dir. & Plant Mgr. West View Water Authority** provided an extremely knowledgeable and interesting presentation about ground and surface water use; **Timothy Brett** from the **PA DEP** talked to the crowd about the MS-4 Program; **Joseph Schombert** from **Three Rivers Wet Weather** discussed Combined Sewer Overflows; and archaeologist **Paula Zitzler**, **Westsylvania Heritage Corporation**, gave an interesting talk on past Ohio River travelers!!!

Ample opportunities for networking and sharing ideas were enjoyed. Close to **50(!!!) displays** were onboard the Majestic, full of watershed information! (Thank you **Sherry Carlin** for your organizational skills!!!) Live fish and live birds were also part of this fun learning experience! Folks enjoyed yummy snacks including salmon (not from the Ohio River, but still tasty!), veggies, fruit, cheese, and bagels. Many door prizes were given away (with **Barrie Gibbs** making this an exciting activity!) including a beautiful framed print from **Cabela's** and a 2-night getaway stay at the **Pittsburgh Hilton**! (Thank you **Marcia Reinstadtler** for organizing this and your many other contributions!!!)

This year's Celebration was full of fun and we look forward to another adventure at next year's 4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!! **Please email or write us a brief note about the Ohio River Watershed Celebration that we can share with our sponsors!!! (Kids!!! Please write or send a drawing!!!)**

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Thanks to all the wonderful sponsors who made the 2004 Ohio River Watershed Celebration a success!!!

### **Slippery Rock Students Continue Sampling Efforts**

On September 14, **Slippery Rock University** professors **Dr. Mike Stapleton** and **Dr. Dean DeNicola**, along with SRU students **Susan Salusky** and **Jeffrey Jubbach**, did water sampling of the 12 passive treatment system stations in the headwaters of Slippery Rock. This outing was the 22nd time SRU profs and students have sampled the 12 sites since 1995!!! Their project has involved over 25 SRU students in that period and has resulted in 2 science journal publications and 2 extensive reports to the DEP! They hope to continue to collect data to examine the LONG TERM recovery of the streams following restoration. Data collected to this point have shown remarkable improvements in the health of the watershed due in large part to the success of the passive treatment systems in remediating water impacted by AMD.

### **Staying Out Late with Jennings Environmental Education Center**

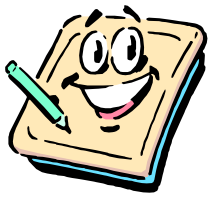
On August 11th and 12th, 23 local teachers faced their fears, stayed up late, and went out after dark to learn about bats! Much to their surprise, they discovered that bats, nature's only flying mammal, are gentle, clean, and valuable members of our forest and backyard community. Pennsylvania's bats, for which there are 9 common species, are the primary predator of nighttime flying insects. Yes, that includes mosquitoes! It also includes moths, whose larvae are major crop and garden pests, as well as countless other six-legged nocturnal creatures. One little brown bat, Pennsylvania's most common bat, can catch over 1,200 insects in just one hour! A colony of 200 little brown bats can rid the evening sky of almost 1 million bugs per night!

Jennings staff provided these adventurous teachers with a wealth of information and resources about bats while demonstrating fun and exciting ways to convey this information in the classroom. Jennings firmly believes that the attitudes and behaviors of students and teachers can be changed by providing and reinforcing positive outdoor experiences. These teachers' attitudes about bats certainly changed as they witnessed the emergence of over 2000 bats, participated in mist netting (a research technique in which bats are caught in a fine net), and enjoyed foods like bananas, mangoes, and peaches that are pollinated by bats found throughout the world.

Knowing more about bats than 90 percent of the people living in the United States, these teachers will now pass these discoveries on to their students, perpetuating the information, experiences, and resources provided by Jennings.

### **I-79 Trash Pick-Up Set for October 15**

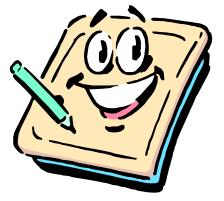
Members of the SRWC will be picking up trash as part of their Adopt-a-Highway project. They will be working between miles markers 100 and 101 of I-79 starting at noon on Friday, Oct. 15. Volunteers are welcome! A free lunch, gloves, and stylish orange vest are provided. Call **Cliff Denholm** at **724-776-0161** for more information.



# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

*Word Seek and Find*



It's harvest time! As the leaves change color and autumn approaches, many people are reaping the tasty rewards of a garden well planted! Some common backyard garden vegetables are listed below! See if you can find the hidden crop names below, and circle them! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!

WORD BANK				
corn	tomato	lettuce	zucchini	potato
onion	carrot	cucumber	squash	peppers

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Address

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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](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). Oct. Distribution: 1230 copies

## Many Thank You's for the 3rd Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!

Each and every one of the over 90 Sponsors and Partners played a special role in ensuring the success of this year's Ohio River Watershed Celebration. The riverboat cruise and related festivities couldn't have happened without the help and effort of the following groups and individuals:

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