

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday November 11 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 10/14/04 Meeting Attendance: J. Belgredan, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, S. Smith.

The SRWC Travels to D.C. for "Take Pride Award"

Several participants in the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition traveled to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., for the **Take Pride in America** national awards ceremony! The SRWC was honored to receive a national award from Take Pride in the category of Public/Private Partnership. The award was presented to the SRWC on Sept. 21 by **Secretary Gale Norton** of the Department of the Interior and **Marti Allbright**, the Executive Director of Take Pride in America. Awards were handed out to the winners from an unusual location: the roof of the Interior Building! It offered a bird's-eye-view of the nation's capital, a beautiful setting. Also part of the evening's festivities were the presentation of colors by the US Park Police Honor Guard, taped remarks from **Clint Eastwood** (Take Pride's National Spokesman), and remarks from **Desiree Sayle** from the USA Freedom Corps.



Representing the SRWC at the Take Pride awards were **Margaret Dunn, Annette Danehy, Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Valentine Kefeli, Galina Kefeli, and Dave Johnson**. Dave, the park manager at Jennings Environmental Education Center, was the individual responsible for nominating the SRWC for the award. Thanks, Dave! Also on hand for the awards ceremony was **Jeff Jarrett**, former Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources for the PA DEP, now the current Director of the OSM, Dept. of the Interior. The SRWC thanks Jeff for his support of numerous watershed reclamation projects throughout the United States over the years!

While the awards were presented on the 21st, the 20th was also a busy day for the SRWC. They were given a special tour of Washington, D.C., which included a wonderful banquet and reception in the evening.

There were 26 National Award Winners this year. The SRWC was recognized in the Public/Private Partnership category, with more than 500 volunteers contributing 2000 hours of time this year. Over 63 public and private partners are working together in the SRWC to make the Slippery Rock Watershed healthy and productive. This is being done, in part, by the SRWC's 15 treatment systems that handle and treat 750 million gallons of AMD annually.



New Book on Wildlife Diseases

A new book on wildlife diseases will be released in November, edited by **Dr. Fred Brenner** of the SRWC and Biology professor at Grove City College. Entitled "Wildlife Diseases: Landscape Epidemiology, Spatial Distribution and Utilization of Remote Sensing Technology", the book is edited by **S.K. Majumdar, J.E. Huffman, F.J. Brenner, and A.I. Panah**. It is published by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. In addition to being a coeditor, Dr. Brenner and 12 former **Grove City College** students are the co-authors of three chapters in the book. This is the 10th book edited by Dr. Brenner.



"Take Pride in America" Ceremony (09/21/04): Jeff Jarrett, Director, US Office of Surface Mining with Cliff Denholm, Dave Johnson, Margaret Dunn, Valentine and Galena Kefeli, and Annette Danehy (Photo by Tim Danehy)

Water Purification Project

Dr. Valentine Kefeli, soil scientist of the SRWC, conducted research June through September of this year at **Jennings Environmental Education Center** to examine the ability of plants to purify water. Several volunteers, including students at **Slippery Rock University**, worked with Dr. Kefeli at Jennings. He was interested in developing a system of wastewater purification which could respond to several demands, with the understanding that in houses the peak of wastewater production occurs during the fall and winter seasons. Some of these demands include: developing plant disks for containers with polluted water with well-developed root systems; finding plants with active rooting and minimal dormant periods; proposing the indoor cycle of wastewater for its further recycling in green houses, atriums, and cold frames; choosing the proper pattern of plants for summer and winter water cleaning.

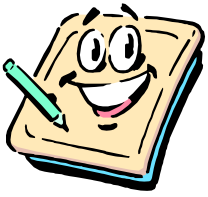
During the summer-fall season of this year, Valentine and his volunteers investigated the intensity of willow and poplar growth on fabricated soil and the rooting process of cuttings of these plants. Some species of willow and poplar were applied as tools for the plant disk constructions (summer type). A special focus was the propagation of tropical plants, which do not go dormant and could be used for water cleaning during the winter. Cloning of this type of plant was also an element of Valentine's project.



Will Taylor of Jennings stands with several papyrus plants used in Dr. Kefeli's water purification research project.

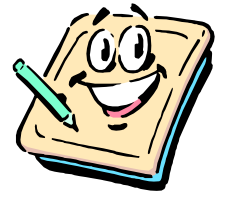
SRWC's Shaun Busler Gains GISP Certification

Congratulations to **Shaun Busler** of the SRWC and Stream Restoration Inc. for his recent certification in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)! Shaun was awarded professional certification in GIS this month and is now a certified member of the **GIS Certification Institute (GISCI)**. Shaun met the standards and requirements established by GISCI for a Certified **GIS Professional (GISP)**. He was certified under guidelines established by leaders within his field and his portfolio was also reviewed by a cross-section of his peers representing various disciplines. Fewer than 500 professionals with the GISP certification exist nation-wide. Shaun looks forward to developing relationships with fellow GISCI members and expects the future GIS-related training and materials he will receive as a GISP will help further advance his expertise in this growing field and its application to his work in the watershed.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Wildlife Coloring Puzzle

How well do you know your Pennsylvania wildlife? The names of several different kinds of wildlife are found in the shapes in the game below. Your job is to color each shape according to the key in the following box. If you mail us your colored paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!

Insect = purple
Bird = yellow
Tree = green

Mammal = orange
Flower = red
Fish = blue

RABBIT

RAINBOW TROUT

WOODPECKER

CARDINAL

PINE

SQUIRREL

BEAR

CARP

DRAGONFLY

MAPLE

BLUE JAY

BEE

SPARROW

ANT

LARGEMOUTH BASS

PERCH

BAT

TULIP

DAISY

FOX

OAK

Address _____

Age _____

Name _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

Fox Run Watershed

This month we take a closer look at a neighbor of the SRWC—the **Fox Run Watershed**, located to the northwest of Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, in Mercer County. Fox Run flows into the Shenango River and is on the DEP's 303D List indicating it has been impacted. Fox Run, about 8 square miles in size, is on the list for elevated metals. Several alkaline discharges containing iron impact this waterway. One large discharge in particular, located in the headwaters area, essentially makes up the entire stream in times of seasonal low flow. The **PA DEP "Growing Greener," Mercer County Conservation District, Western PA Watershed Program, local land owners, Quality Aggregates Inc., Grove City College, Urban Wetland Institute, BioMost, Inc., and Stream Restoration Inc.** have partnered to clean this watershed with the goal of returning it to a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and lovers of the outdoors.

Construction of the first phase in what has been deemed the Fox Run Restoration Area was started in mid-September of this year. The installation of a bioswale, settling pond, and aerobic wetland by **Quality Aggregates Inc.** and their equipment operators, **Kevin Steiner** and **Mike Hjorten**, will treat several alkaline, iron discharges. Thanks to the landowner, **The Kish Family**, for allowing us to construct this system! This project is highly visible to the east of Route 62 and is close to completion. The wetland will be planted in the spring of 2005. Anyone interested in volunteering in the wetland planting may contact Shawn Hedglin of the Mercer County Conservation District at (724) 662-2242 or Dr. Fred Brenner of the Urban Wetland Institute at (724) 458-2113.

