

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday March 10 at 7pm Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop will be provided. 2/10/05 Meeting Attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, A. Pavlick, S. Smith, W. Taylor

Over 50 Participate in Jennings Prairie Improvement Day!

Jennings Environmental Education Center once again hosted its annual "Prairie Improvement Day" on February 5th. Over fifty members of the community volunteered an entire morning working in snow covered, but sunny, warm conditions, to clear woody growth from the unique prairie landscape. Home to the endangered Massasauga rattlesnake and rare Blazing star, the Jennings prairie is like a hidden gem nestled among the trees of western Pennsylvania.

Although a variety of management techniques are used to preserve the prairie, clipping and removing the woody growth is best accomplished during winter when the soil is frozen and the vegetation reduced. Such an undertaking could only be completed with the help of a large and dedicated group of volunteers. The amount of work accomplished was truly amazing and plays a key role in maintaining the ecological and aesthetic integrity of the prairie.

In exchange for their efforts, all participants were treated to a warm, hearty lunch provided by several of our community partners. Eight local restaurants generously donated half-a-dozen varieties of soup, while one of our oldest and most reliable friends, **Fairground Market**, provided everything from bread and crackers to coffee and hot chocolate. Volunteers were also given a beautiful, commemorative soup mug to take with them as an additional "thank you" from the Jennings staff. This event continues to be a shining example of partnership, cooperation and community spirit.



Carnegie Science Center Award to Be Received by an SRWC Participant

Several members of the SRWC journeyed to Pittsburgh for a reception at the Carnegie Science Center on February 2 to honor recipients of the 2005 Carnegie Science Center Awards for Excellence. **Margaret Dunn** was awarded this prestigious honor this year in the Environmental category after receiving an honorable mention in 2004. Accompanying Margaret to the dinner reception were **Shaun Busler**, who nominated Margaret, **Tim Danehy**, and **Cliff Denholm**. They enjoyed delectable food including sushi and caviar, and had fun exploring the interesting science exhibits. On April 27, Margaret and fellow award winners will be honored at a special celebration at the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh. **NASA astronaut** and Pittsburgh native **Mike Fincke** is scheduled to address the award winners. The Carnegie Science Center established the Awards for Excellence program in 1997 to recognize and promote outstanding science and technology achievements in western PA. Nomination categories include entrepreneur, environmental, media, educators, life sciences, and more.



Cody Salmon, Beran Environmental Services, and Tim Danehy, BioMost, Inc., investigating an abandoned mine discharge in the North Branch of Slippery Rock Creek as part of the assessment of the headwaters area.

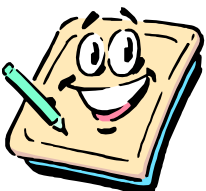
Admiring Animal Architecture at Jennings

Local denizens suffering from cabin fever or the mid-winter blues were cured of both recently with a strong dose of outdoor programming at **Jennings Environmental Education Center**. On January 30th, forty-five people were greeted by a fresh blanket of snow and bright blue sky while experiencing the healing powers of “Animal Architecture”. After introducing the audience to some extraordinary examples of animal architecture from around the world, Jennings staff, **Eric Best** and **Mary Jo Shreffler**, led the group on a hike to explore the great variety of animal structures found near the Jennings Center.

Along the way, audience members closely examined the works of some of nature’s great engineers, from groundhog burrows and spider webs to the nests of birds and hornets. Careful consideration was also given to the similarities between our homes and an animal’s, construction techniques and materials used, as well as the form and function of this often over-looked part of the naturally built environment. I guess you might say it was a “constructive” way to spend the afternoon.

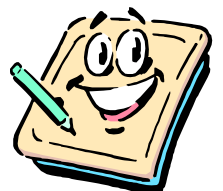
10th Annual SRWC Student Symposium Set for April 14

Are you a local college student with an interest in watershed issues? Have you been involved in research in the area of ecosystem recovery, water or soil science, or perhaps environmental education of local issues? The SRWC is currently accepting proposals for research presentation for their 10th Annual Student Symposium to be held on **April 14** at Westminster College from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. This event is an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their work to fellow students, professors, and professionals with an interest in watershed issues and abandoned mine reclamation. To submit a proposal, see the form on the opposite page. For more information, check out the back page of this Catalyst issue, or contact **Will Taylor** at 724-794-6011 or email wilbutaylo@state.pa.us. Don’t miss out on this fabulous chance for professional networking and promoting student research!



Looking for “The KIDS Catalyst”?

“The Kids Catalyst” will return in the April issue! We’re sorry we were not able to include a kids’ activity this month, but we promise you younger readers will not be disappointed next month!



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Request for Proposal

Investigating Watershed Issues:
Supporting Student Research Through Public/Private Partnerships

Students from local higher education institutions are invited to submit proposals for presentations that highlight their research projects related to (a) water and soil science, (b) ecosystem recovery and (c) environmental education on local issues.

Accepted proposals will be presented on Thursday, April 14, 2005 at Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA during an evening symposium. Presenters will be afforded 15 minutes to highlight their work, with audio-visuals, to a group of college students and professionals interested in watershed issues and abandoned mine drainage remediation.

DEADLINE: postmark March 18, 2005

Complete the following for each presenter and submit to:

**Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
c/o Jennings Environmental Education Center
2951 Prospect Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057
OR**

Email- wilbutaylo@state.pa.us

For more information, contact: Will Taylor, phone: 724-794-6011; email: wilbutaylo@state.pa.us

Students will be notified of proposal acceptance.

Include the Following Information for Each Presenter:

Name: _____

Higher Education Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name, department, and contact information of professor with whom you are working on this project:

Your presentation topic relates to: (circle the topic which applies)

Water Research

Soil Science

Ecosystem Recovery

Environmental Education

Other (specify) _____

On a separate sheet (include your name), please provide the following:

- 1) Abstract: Attach a presentation description of about 200-300 words
- 2) Briefly, tell us why you feel that presenting at the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Evening Symposium would be beneficial to both you and your audience.

Due Date for Submission March 18, 2005



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., Drs. Ron & Kathy Falk Family, 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, www.srwc.org. March distribution: 1242

CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Investigating Watershed Issues: Supporting Student Research Through Public/Private Partnerships



Thursday, April 14th 2005

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Westminster College

Join the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, professionals in fields of mine reclamation and ecosystem recovery, educators and watershed organizations for an evening showcasing student research at Westminster College.

Students from local colleges and universities are invited to present their research, projects and discoveries relating to water quality, biology, environmental education, soil science and ecosystem recovery to professors, organizations, professionals and their peers. This exciting opportunity will provide valuable experience and encourage the networking of students and potential employers. For more information call 724-794-6011 or e-mail wilbutaylo@state.pa.us

Event Schedule for Thursday April 14th

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Networking

- For networking of student presenters, sponsoring professors and professionals.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Student Symposium

- Student presenters will give 15 min audiovisual presentations on research they have been or are conducting.
- Remarks from former student presenter now working in the field of ecosystem restoration.
- Insight from business owner in the field of reclamation and restoration.

The SRWC is accepting proposals from students interested in presenting. To apply, complete a request for proposal, available by contacting the SRWC at 724-794-6011 or e-mail wilbutaylo@state.pa.us. Deadline for proposals is March 18th, 2005.

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC) is a public/private partnership dedicated to the restoration of the Slippery Rock Creek which has been heavily impacted by abandoned mine drainage. The SRWC has been involved in numerous projects that have brought the creek back to life. 750 million gallons of water are treated annually through innovative passive treatment systems implemented by this group of individuals, agencies, organizations, industries and educators. The SRWC is