

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Cancelled due to 4/14 SRWC Student Symposium; next meeting will be Thursday 5/12 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center 3/10/05 Meeting Attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, D. Sloan, R. Sloan, W. Taylor

Local Residents Appreciate Efforts of SRWC

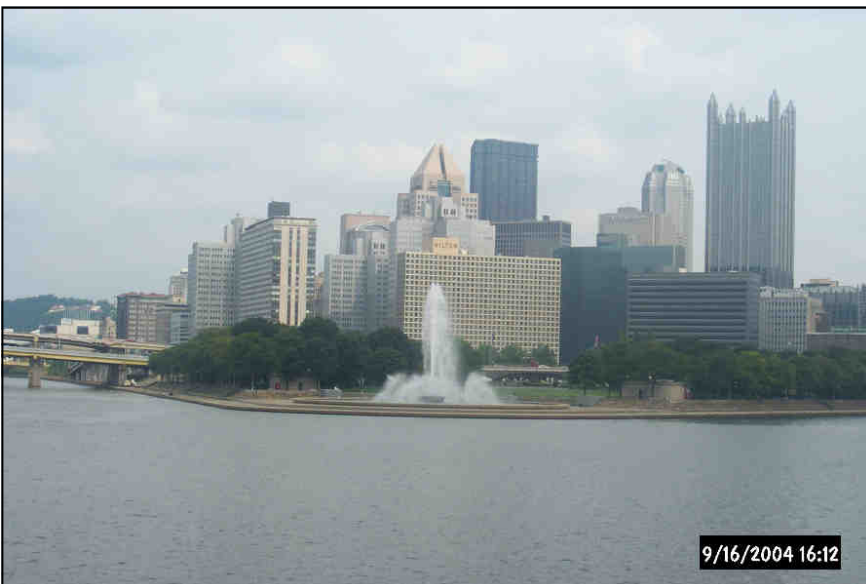
Participants of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition had an unexpected yet pleasant surprise when long-time residents **Richard Sloan** and **Dennis Sloan** attended the March monthly meeting to see what was going on and to give praise to the good efforts of the Coalition. They commented on how much the watershed has improved over the years. Richard Sloan recounted when Slippery Rock Creek ran red and was known as "Sulfur Creek". He also remembers when young kids were paid to walk out on wooden planks with buckets to collect iron oxides from a site for a paint company! Isn't it interesting that only in recent years has the idea of recovering iron from abandoned mine sites for paint pigments resurfaced? Dennis mentioned that he has a passive treatment system on his farm that was designed by **PA DEP, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation** and constructed by resident **Joe Puryear, Puryear Excavating**. He reported that the system was functioning well, noting the cost savings that passive treatment systems provide over active chemical treatment. It is always wonderful to hear stories about the watershed "back in the day" and for people to express that they notice and appreciate the positive changes that are occurring in our watershed. Thank you **Richard and Dennis Sloan** for coming and providing the positive feedback!

Save the Date!!! The 4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration is July 27!!!

Mark your calendars now, because you won't want to miss another fun expedition aboard the **Gateway Clipper Fleet's** beautiful vessel The Majestic, part of a day of celebrating the Ohio River Watershed! We are pleased to be holding this exciting event on July 27 to coincide with the **Bassmaster Fishing Tournament!**

Last year **over 600** individuals participated in the riverboat cruise and other activities at the Gateway Clipper fleet's docks, and we expect an even greater interest this year! Anyone and everyone is welcome to join us as we sail portions of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers. Watershed groups, other non-profits and conservation groups, educators, professionals, private business and industry, government agencies, students, and interested citizens combined for a diverse and fun crowd at last year's event.

There will be educational watershed displays, interesting speakers discussing a variety of watershed issues, a guided narration of points of interest along the rivers' banks, ample time to network, free snacks, great door prizes, and lots more! Join us to learn more about how you can play an important role in being a good steward of your watershed!



Because there is no charge for this event, we are accepting donations to aid in the cost. We are also looking for individuals or organizations to donate door prizes. More information will be made available in next month's Catalyst about how to register by mail or online for the cruise. If you or your organization is interested in bringing a poster display or door prize, you can contact **Margaret Dunn** of Stream Restoration Inc. at **724-776-0161**.

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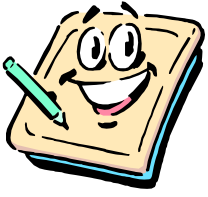
An excavator begins to breach the dam across Wolf Creek, slowly lowering the impounded water.
(See article below)

Looking for a good way to celebrate Earth Day?
Come join a community planting in Grove City on Saturday April 23rd!

Grove City Borough, Pine Township, Beran Environmental Services, Inc., and other community organizations and members will be planting over 5,000 trees and shrubs in the area that used to be the pool behind Grove City's "upper dam." PennDOT removed the dam in September of 2004 (see photos), and with it the safety hazard and ecological impediments it posed. Funded by the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and American Rivers (national non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers), the planting will consist of native trees and shrubs and is designed to provide habitat for woodcock and songbirds. The planting is part of the restoration initiative associated with the dam removal, as well as part of creating a community park on the land adjacent to the former dam pool, which is owned by Pine Township and the Grove City Borough.

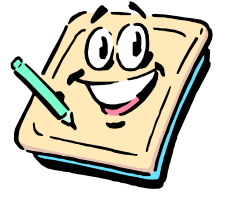
The planting will begin at 8:00 am. Please meet at the Grove City Little League Fields' parking lot. The fields are located to the north of Grove City (actually in Pine Township), east of Wolf Creek, and can be accessed from State Route 208 – between the 208 bridge over Wolf Creek (recently replaced) and the Pine Township Municipal building. There is a sign announcing the fields, but it can be difficult to see. Please bring shovels, boots if you have them (hip boots and/or chest waders would be good for planting in some areas), and come prepared to get wet and muddy! Excessive rains just prior to the planned planting may cause its cancellation. For additional information, please contact Beran Environmental Services, Inc. at 724-735-2766.





The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Lots of Locomotion!

You have probably seen a goldfish swim in a fishbowl, a cardinal fly through the sky, and a grasshopper jumping in the lawn. Animals use many different kinds of movement based on the type of body they have. Color each animal's shape below to match the key in the box, to show which method of movement each animal typically uses. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!

COLOR KEY

Swim = Blue Fly = Yellow
 Jump = Red Run = Green
 Slither = Orange

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Age _____

A large rectangular area containing various animal shapes for coloring. The shapes are labeled with animal names: cheetah, snake, whale, kangaroo, eagle, seal, bear, snail, horse, worm, hawk, rabbit, dolphin, toad, catfish, slug, zebra, ostrich, bat, bee, cricket, and penguin.



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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Slippery Rock Watershed Photo in NC State Publication

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition was happy to oblige a request from **Wendy Moore** of the **North Carolina State University Department of Zoology** to use a photo of a local stream impacted by abandoned mine drainage for an annual report for the Cooperative Research Units program! The Cooperative Research Units Program is a unique collaborative relationship between States, Universities, the Federal government and a non-profit organization. In fact, the 40 units in the program are jointly supported by: the US Geological Survey, Host Universities, State Natural Resource Agencies, Wildlife Management Institute, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Co-op Units conduct research on renewable natural resource questions, participate in the education of graduate students destined to join the natural resource profession, provide technical assistance and consultation in natural resource issues, and provide various forms of continuing education for professionals.



The photo, pictured here, is found on the Stream Restoration Inc. web site and shows an orange-colored stream bed completely devoid of aquatic life. Wendy, working with the **North Carolina Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit**, discovered the photo on SRI's web site. Isn't it rewarding that people from other states are interested in our efforts in Pennsylvania? Thank you for your interest, Wendy, and we think it's great you are using our photo in your annual report! The picture and additional information on AMD, local projects, and news items can be found at

SRI's web site: www.streamrestorationinc.org. Stop by and pay us a visit on the world wide web!