

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 5/12 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 4/14/05 Meeting cancelled due to Student Symposium

How About a Festival?! - Annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium: Celebrating a Decade of Success!



Participate in a day of community celebration and exploration as the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition sponsors its first community watershed festival on **Saturday, June 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** There will be activities, programs and information for every age. All activities and events will take place within the headwaters area of the Slippery Rock Creek and will highlight successful SRWC projects and partners and the Slippery Rock Creek. Three locations within the headwaters will be hosting events: the Boyers Sportsman's Club, Erico Bridge Restoration Area and the Quality Aggregates Limestone Quarry. Entertaining and educational children's activities will be conducted at all locations throughout the day! Lunch and refreshments

will be available.

Discover the Slippery Rock watershed and:

- **Go fishing-** Thanks to the efforts of the SRWC, fish have been reported in six miles of stream located in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek for the first time in over 100 years. All fishing equipment will be provided. Fishing license required if over 16 years of age.
- **Tye-Dye a T-Shirt-** Using iron collected from abandoned mine drainage passive treatment system, design and tye-dye your own shirt to take home. Decorate your shirt using the Japanese art of fish printing.
- **Tour a Passive Treatment System** – Abandoned mine drainage has impacted more streams in Pennsylvania than any other pollution source. The Slippery Rock Creek has been no exception. Learn how the SRWC is cleaning up this legacy using passive methods at the Erico Bridge Restoration Area.
- **Explore a Limestone Quarry** – Discover how limestone is removed from the earth and processed for use in constructed public roads, driveways, etc. by touring the Quality Aggregates Limestone Quarry and Plant in Boyers.
- **Help out with a conservation project-** Whether you plant a tree or erect a habitat improvement structure, there are lots of ways to help make mine reclamation sites a better place for wildlife!
- **Participate in valuable research-** Fish shocking is a valuable (and harmless to the fish!) way to inventory the biological health of a stream. Watch this research method conducted on the Slippery Rock Creek then try your hand at identifying aquatic insects.

Following the festival, why not dine at one of Slippery Rock's restaurants before taking in an evening historical program at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Participants of the SRWC Watershed Festival will receive coupons to several of Slippery Rock's local eateries. What a great way to spend some time before seeing **Rich Pawling**, of *History Alive*, reenact the life and times of a turn-of-the-century coal miner at 7:30 p.m. at Jennings Environmental Education Center.

All activities and events are free and open to the public. The events typical of the Annual SRWC Symposium and Get-Together are being incorporated into this Festival. For more information about the Slippery Rock Watershed Festival contact Stream Restoration Incorporated at (724)-776-0161; sri@streamrestorationinc.org or Jennings Environmental Education Center at (724)-794-6011; jenningsssp@state.pa.us

P
H
O
T
O
O
F
T
H
E
M
O
N
T
H



P
H
O
T
O
O
F
T
H
E
M
O
N
T
H

Student symposium with participants from Carnegie Mellon and Slippery Rock Universities and Westminster, Thiel, and Grove City Colleges was held 4/14/05 at Westminster College. The presentations were outstanding!! More next month...

PA Growing Greener Bond Issue --- An Update

Many may not have heard about the \$625 million bond issue on the upcoming 5/17/05 ballot. If supported by the voters, this bond would authorize additional state funding for our three largest problems --- abandoned mine drainage pollution, loss of farmland and open space, and cleaning up rivers and streams. This effort has strong bipartisan support as demonstrated at a recent press conference in Harrisburg. Participants included -

- Governor Rendell
- PA DEP Secretary Kati McGinty
- Former PA DEP/DER Secretaries Dave Hess, Arthur Davis, Peter Duncan, Clifford Jones
- PEC President Andrew McElwaine
- PA DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis
- PA Fish & Boat Comm. Exec. Director Douglas Austen

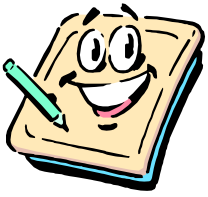
John Oliver, former PA DCNR Secretary, is chairing the "Vote Yes to Keep PA Growing Greener" Committee.

This issue is going to be determined by those who vote on 5/17/05. Become informed!!! Learn more about the bond issue by "googling" the following websites: PA DEP Daily Update and PA Environment Digest.



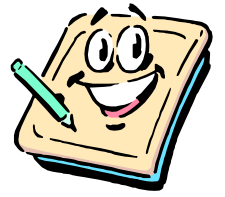
We Hope You Will Sail With Us on July 27!!!

Not thinking yet about those hot and sunny summer days? Well, summer is almost here! Don't forget to mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 27, the day of the **4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!** We hope to see you at Station Square in Pittsburgh for an eventful day of fun on the docks of the Gateway Clipper Fleet and aboard the beautiful *Majestic*. As we celebrate the rivers of Pittsburgh, we will enjoy a 3-hour riverboat cruise on the Monongahela, Ohio, and Allegheny Rivers that will include expert guided narration of landmarks and sites along the rivers' banks, and much, much more! Topics to be explored this day include river history, river recovery, river resources, aquatic life, and energy leadership. Over 600 folks participated in last year's Celebration, and we expect even more this year! Register online at www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Spring Coloring Fun!

We hope you kids have fun coloring this month's picture page! If you send us your coloring, we will mail you a free gift certificate! Be sure to enjoy the spring!

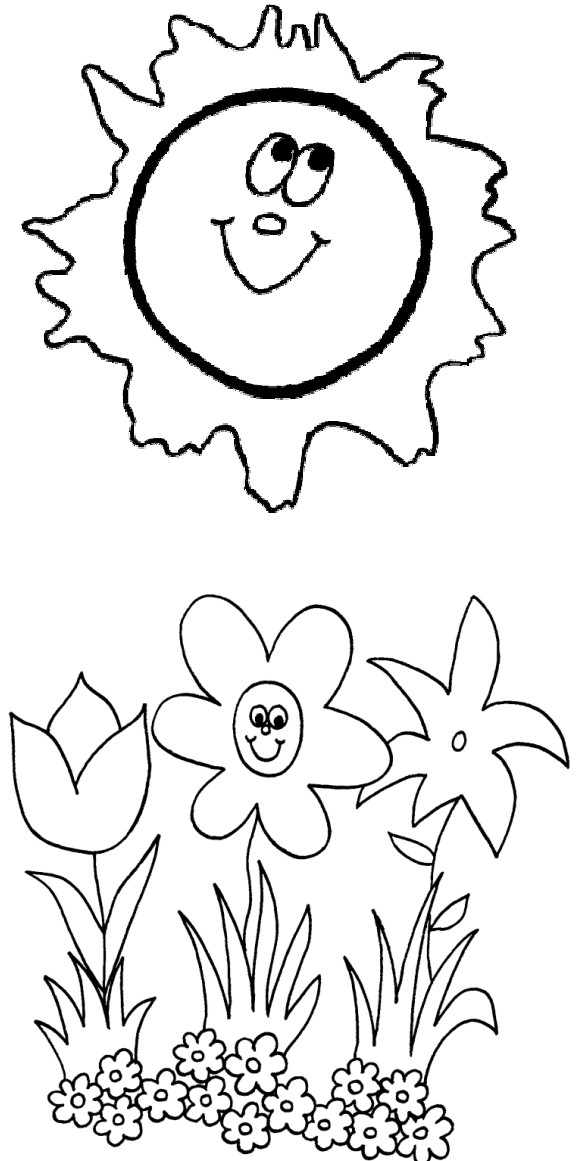
NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

**April
showers
bring...**



**...May
flowers!**





Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
3016 Unionville Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 434
CRANBERRY, PA

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. May distribution: 1244

Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

Cemex

A mitigation wetland, approximately **8 acres in size**, is currently being built in West Pittsburg, PA, located just outside of New Castle. This wetland is being built for **Cemex**, one of the world's largest cement producers. Cemex is mining limestone in the area and the mitigation wetland will compensate for future wetland impacts that occur during mining operations. Cemex personnel are interested in "going above and beyond" that which is required in order to maximize the site's potential for wildlife habitat and educational opportunities. Thanks to **Al Stubna**, Quality Control Manager of Cemex, **Janet Krolczyk**, Manager of Water & Mining Programs, and **Jim Houk**, Quarry Manager of Cemex's Wampum Mine, for making this project possible!!

Cemex is working closely on this wetland construction project with **Aquascape** and the **Reclamation Division of Quality Aggregates**, which have helped to provide greater wildlife habitat and assisted in public outreach efforts on abandoned mine reclamation projects as participants in the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition**. **Local seniors** and **scout troops** will be involved in the construction and installation of habitat structures for bluebirds, ducks, and bats. **The Adventure Group**, a teenage volunteer organization, has also become involved through the coordination efforts of the **Lawrence County Conservation District**. The Adventure Group and scout troops may assist in the planting of a tree and shrub buffer zone adjacent to the wetland that will provide additional habitat opportunities for wildlife. In addition to encouraging wildlife use of the site and community involvement, Cemex is also interested in the educational opportunities provided by the site. This will include summer employment for a student from the **Sustainable Systems Program at Slippery Rock University**, who will assist in the planting and monitoring of the wetland.

Education efforts will also involve the construction of a gazebo or information kiosk at the site, along with the development of interpretive trails.

As part of their on-going outreach effort, Cemex is partnering with the **North Country Trail Association**, which will build up to 6 miles of trails along Cemex's properties. (The North Country Trail will pass through 7 states and be over 4000 miles long once completed, making it the longest National Scenic Trail in the country!) Janet Krolczyk is interested in working with Aquascape later this year to investigate the possibility of constructing a wetland interpretive site near the North Country Trail. Thank you, Cemex, for your dedication to improving wildlife habitat! It is great to see the world's largest trader of cement, with a network that extends to 60 countries, involved in such a worthwhile local project!

